

THE INDEPENDENT

INSIDE TODAY'S BROADSHEET REVIEW



Confessions
of a junkie
doctor



Sophie Dahl
answers your
questions



How I survived
Fred West

PLUS FASHION,
THEATRE, SECRETARIAL & FINANCE

Britain is failing us, say blacks

AN ALARMING gulf has emerged between black and white people in their perceptions of multi-cultural Britain.

A survey published today reveals that while whites are increasingly ready to embrace a multi-ethnic society, and believe that old prejudices are disappearing, four out of five young blacks feel that race relations are getting worse.

The report, by the University of Warwick's centre for research in ethnic relations, shows that black people are three times more likely than

BY IAN BURRELL
AND PAUL WAUGH

whites to believe that race relations are deteriorating. The findings are in stark contrast to a similar exercise conducted a generation ago, which found that ethnic minorities were far more optimistic than whites about future race relations in Britain.

Last night, the author of the report, Professor Muhammad Anwar, said second-generation blacks and Asians were more conscious of discrimina-

tion and less willing to tolerate it. The young people have had a British education and they are aware of how things happen. They have a more demanding attitude than their parents who had a mostly submissive attitude in general terms.

Chris Myant, of the Commission for Racial Equality, said the gulf between the views of black and white people on race relations was directly linked to discrimination in the job market and police stop-and-search tactics. He said: "There has been a decline in

prejudice on the part of the bulk of the population. But young black men, in particular, have a very hard time in the labour market, and they are more likely to be stopped by police. This is bound to increase their perception that race relations are not going to improve."

The Warwick report found that people aged between 18 and 24 were the most pessimistic, with 79 per cent of blacks, 50 per cent of Asians and 38 per cent of whites predicting that relations would get worse over the next five years.

In all age groups, whites had the most harmonious view, with 41 per cent saying race relations would get better over the next five years, and only 12 per cent believing they would deteriorate. Whites were less likely to acknowledge discrimination, with only 41 per cent saying ethnic minorities were comparatively worse off, compared to 65 per cent of blacks and 51 per cent of Asians.

The researchers also found that 29 per cent of Asians thought prejudice would increase, with only 21 per cent

believing it would diminish. Among black respondents, 35 per cent thought race relations were set to worsen, with 22 per cent saying they thought they would improve.

The picture is very different from that painted by a 1975 study, also involving Professor Anwar, which found that 44 per cent of ethnic minority respondents believed race relations were improving, compared to only 33 per cent of whites.

Lee Jasper, chair of Charter 88's Operation Black Vote campaign, which commissioned the

research, said the findings helped explain why 27 per cent of people from ethnic minorities did not appear on the electoral register. "Is it surprising that so many reject a system that often ignores black people's concerns and at times actually works against them?"

The Warwick report was based on over 1,400 face-to-face interviews with people in multi-racial inner-city areas.

It also examined the voting patterns of ethnic minorities in the last election and found that all parties had an interest in try-

ing to attract more black and Asian supporters. Although Labour had the most ethnic minority support, many Asians backed the Conservatives, with 61 per cent of Pakistanis in the Bradford West constituency voting Tory, and 60 per cent in Birmingham Edgbaston. But Professor Anwar noted that there were still only nine MPs from ethnic minority groups, and he added: "Equality of opportunity in the political process is crucial if we are to achieve equality in other fields." Pessimism growing, page 6

Real IRA ends its deadly campaign

THE REAL IRA, the group which killed 29 people in the Omagh bombing, yesterday bowed to the inevitable and announced the end of the short, but bloody, campaign of violence that ensured its name will forever be associated with the infamy of Omagh.

The news was welcomed in almost all quarters, though the British and Irish governments both declared that the move would not affect the intensive police investigation into the attack, which is under way on both sides of the border.

It was also made clear that anyone jailed in connection with the attack could not expect to benefit from the Good Friday Agreement's early prisoner-release scheme. The first inmates to be freed under the scheme will be out this week.

In Omagh, a Unionist councillor said the ceasefire was "music to my ears", while a nationalist representative added: "All I can say is thank God." Only one of the various republican and loyalist groups, the Continuity IRA, has yet to declare a ceasefire.

Although there is concern that some in the Real IRA's ranks might conceivably attempt to continue violence, the security assessment is that the seven members of its ruling "army council" and the organisation as a whole have genuinely decided to call it a day. The declaration had been expected for some time, following signs of disarray and even panic within the organisation, which was unprepared for the wave of public condemnation sparked off by the Omagh bomb.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The organisation faced huge challenges on three fronts. Firstly it was facing, and still faces, a determined push from the security forces to put its members behind bars, using the specially tailored laws approved by last week's special sessions of Westminster and the Dail.

Secondly, it was facing immense public disapproval. This manifested itself in the waiving of human rights concerns and approval of the new laws, with the overwhelming weight of opinion in both north and south supporting whatever was thought necessary to shut down the organisation and prevent more Omagh-style attacks.

Thirdly, the mainstream IRA appeared to be shaping up to move against the group. During a highly co-ordinated 90-minute period last week scores of Real IRA members and supporters were visited by IRA members who told them they were in violation of IRA rules. Some were reportedly told they would be shot if they continued their activities.

The man regarded as the Real IRA's leader, who lives in the Dundalk area of the Republic, was visited by a well-known senior IRA member from west Belfast who left him in no doubt of the fate that awaited his organisation if it persisted in his campaign. Regardless of the ceasefire, the authorities are pledged to keep after the Real IRA. Surveillance of suspects is said to have been particularly intense since Omagh.



A slogan on a gable wall in South Armagh, still read 'Join the new IRA' yesterday, on the day the Real IRA called its ceasefire, three weeks after the Omagh bombing AP

Tory Euro-rebels accuse Hague of 'lacking vision'

TORY LEFT-WINGERS will open a new front in their battle with William Hague tomorrow by accusing him of failing to set out a clear vision of what the party stands for.

Stephen Dorrell, a former Cabinet minister, will tell a meeting of the Tory Reform Group that the party must urgently fill its "policy vacuum" and will not win the next general election merely by opposing Labour's actions. His move came as other pro-Europeans told Mr Hague that his decision to ballot party members on his policy on a single currency

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

would backfire and not end the party's civil war over Europe.

Mr Hague has deliberately avoided making policy commitments on grounds that voters are "not listening" to his party and intends to keep them to a minimum for another year. Mr Dorrell will argue that the Tories have not come to terms with the "seismic changes" caused by the global economy and the limited power of politicians to shape events. "Of course, the Conservative

Party has to oppose the Government, but it must also set out its own position and a vision of how it would shape society."

Last night Mr Dorrell said his speech was not an attack on Mr Hague. But it will not be welcomed by him as he tries to prevent his party's conference next month being dominated by internal disputes. Yesterday Mr Hague told Tory pro-Europeans they would become isolated figures if they campaigned for Britain to join the single currency after the party ballot endorsed his policy of staying outside it in

this parliament and the next. They would be "on their own" and would get "short shrift" from the rest of the party.

Mr Hague, who plans 100 events during a three-week referendum campaign, told his Shadow Cabinet at a strategy session that a good majority was in the country's interests as well as the party's. John Major rallied to Mr Hague: "We cannot afford a continuation of the disputes that crippled us..." But Chris Patten, former Hong Kong governor, said he would vote 'No'. Return to bonding, page 9

Turbo-charged tortoises overtaken by man

THEY WERE built for speed, moved in herds, and could reach up into trees for their food. They ruled their domain for millions of years.

Scientists are now piecing together the truth about the giant racing tortoises of the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, which became extinct 200 years after the arrival in the 16th century of the deadliest predator of all: humans. Early

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

accounts by explorers describe the animals, each about 2.5ft long, as being so plentiful that you "could walk for 300 yards on their backs without once touching the ground".

The arrival of the explorers spelt the end for a group of animals that were, by tortoise standards, turbo-charged. They

had had millions of untrodden years in which they evolved paper-thin shells that left them up to 30kg (66lb) lighter, and much quicker, than their more conventional cousins.

They were not quick enough, however, to escape people, and the last racing tortoise was hunted and cooked in the early 1800s, ending perhaps 8 million years of an accidental experiment in evolution.

Because the islands - Mauritius, Reunion and Rodriguez - lie between 500 and 1,000 miles east of Madagascar, potential predators were never able to make the sea crossing. In fact, said Dr Jeremy Austin of the Natural History Museum, DNA taken from bones suggests that all three islands were seeded by a single pregnant female ancestor, probably swept off an African

beach by a big wave. "Tortoises can float rather like a coconut, and survive up to four months without eating or drinking anything," he told the British Association's Festival of Science in Cardiff yesterday. "The first tortoise must have been wandering on a beach, suddenly found it couldn't touch anything with its feet, and then just bobbed along, and along, until it washed up on another beach."



INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 20

HOME NEWS
An education chief has quit ahead of a government takeover of his authority
PAGE 4

HOME NEWS
A bogus doctor, who ruined lives with phoney diagnoses, was jailed for five years
PAGE 5

FOREIGN
Bill Clinton launched an attack against the inquiry that may lead to his impeachment
PAGE 13

BUSINESS
Sir David Rowland, the former Lloyd's of London chairman, is to chair NatWest
PAGE 14

SPORT
Paul Merson was transferred from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa for £8.8m
PAGE 26



A combination of tradition and modern style. Fine works of art. Presented by a jeweller with the same philosophy.

WEMPE

Hamburg Berlin Düsseldorf Frankfurt Munich London Paris Vienna New York

135 New Bond Street - London W1Y 9PA - Tel: 0171/493 22 99

Bremen - Berlin - Bonn - Cologne - Düsseldorf - Frankfurt - Hamburg - London - Munich - New York - Paris - Rome - Vienna - Zurich

Jaeger LeCoultre - A. Lange & Söhne - Omega - Patek - Rolex

The \$14 million epic adventure to free Willy - into an unknown future

THE COST OF FREEING WILLY



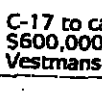
Six trainers to manoeuvre Keiko on a stretcher from his pool in Newport, Oregon.



Crane to lift Keiko over wall of his tank into watertight fibreglass and steel box.



Truck to transport Keiko to Newport airport, along Highway 101, which will be closed to traffic.



C-17 to carry Keiko on 8-hour flight, costing \$600,000, to Vestmannaeyjar airport on the Vestmanna Islands off Iceland.



Plane will refuelled twice in mid-air.



On landing Keiko will be taken by truck to his \$12m sea pen to be looked after by an international staff of 30.

LOGO ILLUSTRATION: GRAHAM WILLIAMS



Keiko comes face to face with one of the many admirers who visited him at his sanctuary in the Free Willy Keiko Foundation in Oregon last month

Akhtar Hussein

IN THE small Pacific fishing port of Newport, Oregon, a countdown has begun that is drawing more attention than a shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral. Blast-off is set for 1.15pm, local time, today. But it is not a space rocket they are sending up to the heavens, however: it is a killer whale.

We are talking, of course, about Keiko, the black and white Orca who first swam into our children's hearts in 1993 as the star of the wildlife weepy, *Free Willy*. Now, in a case of life imitating art, this 10,000lb hulk is being given the chance of freedom. Today an aquarium in Newport, tomorrow the chilly Atlantic waters of the Vestmanna Islands off Iceland.

What begins this afternoon is an experiment in mammal rehabilitation on a scale never before attempted. Depending on your point of view, it is either a testament to our new-found respect for our companion beasts on the planet or an absurd display of do-gooding sentimentality on which millions will be spent that might otherwise have gone towards other more urgent ecological causes. The scientific value of the exercise is expected to be minimal.

It is almost 20 years since Keiko, then a toddler among whales, was first captured off the Icelandic coast and doomed to a life shuttling between aquariums that brought him finally to a water park in Mexico City. There he was spotted by casting scouts from Warner Brothers films and picked for the film that made him famous

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

about a young boy, Jesse, who fights to save Willy from an owner who means to kill him for insurance money. The movie ends with him leaping a break-water to the ocean.

It was after the film's box-office triumph that its irony became public. Unlike his character, Keiko was still stranded in Mexico in a tank that was too small and far too warm for him and in a deteriorating state of health. He had unsightly caruncles on his fins and could barely hold his breath under water. Then the Free Willy Keiko Foundation offered him sanctuary in Oregon.

That was in 1996. A \$7.3m, two-million-gallon, salt-water tank was built for Keiko, complete with a giant-screen colour television and all the fish he could eat. There, for two years, he has been pampered like a babe. Trainers have rubbed his tummy on demand and crowds have been flocking to view his friendly frolics through windows in the tank.

The nurturing of Keiko has so far cost the foundation \$10m (\$5.1m), some of it vacuumed from the piggy banks of America's children, desperate to get one glimpse of their celluloid hero and to buy the souvenir flotsam he has spawned. One beneficiary has been Newport, which has been transformed from a creaking lumber and fishing town to a tourist destination. Nor has it been bad for Keiko. He has lost most of his

warts, caused by a virus, and put on 1,900 muscular pounds.

Now Newport must wave goodbye to Keiko. His incredible journey will begin this afternoon when he is rolled out to a canvas sling already attached to a scaffold next to his pool.

From the sling he will be deposited inside a glass fibre and steel box, which will be lowered into a giant lorry. Next stop will be the local airport and an awaiting C-17 Air Force transport plane. He will then face a nine-hour flight to Iceland, with two in-flight refuellings from an accompanying KC-10 tanker plane. On board, he will be repeatedly soaked in 40F fresh salt water. No movies, though.

Keiko's estimated time of arrival at Heimaey in the Vestmanna Islands is 8am tomorrow. There, everything will be ready. At a cost of another \$12m, a foot-

ball field-sized pen has been built in a bay with large mesh sides and a clear plastic bottom. With teams of veterinarians to watch over him, Keiko will call this home until the time for his release into the open ocean.

Whether that moment will in fact ever arrive is a matter for speculation. It is the best hope of the Keiko Foundation that over several months, its ward will adapt to life back in his natural habitat.

Once more he will experience the currents and noises of the ocean - including, it is assumed, the calls of his fellow killer whales - as well as to other ocean fauna that should swim through the holes in the mesh to join him.

But the risk of failure is considerable. What memories, if any, of living in the wild can Keiko have after two decades

WILLY ON THE INTERNET

Iceland Welcomes Keiko Back

<http://keiko.vestmannaeyjar.is/>

Free Willy Keiko Foundation is planning a live webcast

of Keiko's move

<http://www.keiko.org/home/story/index.html>

of interacting with trainers and schoolchildren?

"If they end up letting him go, he'll have to adapt to a very different environment. He's not going to get his tummy rubbed," said Brad Andrews, of the Sea World theme parks. "His skills are by no means what he'd need in the wild."

His trainers in Oregon have done their best to prepare him. Where once dead fish were simply dumped in Keiko's open mouth, recently he has been feeding on fish that are still wriggling. He has even shown

some ability in chasing fish left to swim in his tank. Even so, his rustiness as a hunter will be a particular worry if ever he is let go. Have his instincts as a killer whale stayed with him?

Another worry is his communications skills. For Keiko to survive, he will need to attach himself to a larger pod of whales coursing the Atlantic.

But first he will need to locate other whales and befriend them. "Though we are hopeful, he may never find his family again. But when other killer whales migrate we hope they

will communicate and over time he may be adopted by a group," suggested Kim Wood, of the Born Free animal welfare charity.

Ken Balcomb, the director of the Center for Whale Research in Washington, has his doubts. "Keiko's been a big teddy bear all his life," he said this week. "He may be a winner in people's hearts, but to other whales he's a loser with a skin condition".

Even worse could happen. It has not escaped the attention of some that this animal, upon which so many millions have been expended, is hardly an adolescent.

Most Orcas survive to about 30 and Keiko, we know, must be 20 at least. The prospect must exist, therefore, that his Icelandic pen will turn out to be his retirement home and final rest-

ing place rather than a halfway house.

Nor, in the meantime, is everyone happy among the local Vestmanna fishing industry. Some experts warn that Keiko could become a local pest, scavenging fishing boats and ports for free meals. To Keiko, after all, boats and human equal hunch, not danger.

One local boat owner has already publicly threatened to do the beloved creature in by dumping poisoned fish into his pen.

Still, the folk at the Keiko Foundation cling on to their optimism.

"We've the world's attention. We're not going to take any shortcuts," insisted its spokesman, Jeff Foster. "We've planned for every contingency."

Additional reporting by Fiona Bell

Tough in the wild for re-introduced captives

REINTRODUCING captive animals into the wild is not a simple or easy business, and may not be for Keiko, experts warned yesterday.

"People should not think that sudden freedom for a captive animal means what it would to a captive human," said Alexandra Dixon, London Zoo's leading reintroduction expert. "To an animal, it means it's suddenly got all the stresses of life in the wild directly on it. Life in the wild is tough. It means the animal has to fend for itself, and hunch is no longer at two o'clock unless it finds it."

Captive animals need long and careful preparation before release, and monitoring and

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

help afterwards if they are to survive, said Ms Dixon, director of field conservation and consultancy for the Zoological Society of London. And their chances are best if they are part of a social structure.

The zoo is involved in two successful reintroduction programmes, with sand gazelles in the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia, where they had become extinct 40 years ago, and with black and white ruffed lemurs, which are declining in their native Madagascar.

"There does need to be a great deal of preparation," Ms

Dixon said. "It doesn't need to be cost and labour-intensive. It's mainly thinking. What do we need to do to maximise the animal's chances in the wild? Some species need training, to avoid predators, for example."

The zoo deliberately created social groups of the gazelles before release. "Social structure is very important," Ms Dixon said. It is a concern shared by the British group which has been supporting the campaign to return Keiko to the wild, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

"Social structure among orcas is very flexible," said Fran Clarke, the group's campaigns co-ordinator.



Keiko, star of 'Free Willy' (top left), had a happier ending than the MGM lion, Leo, and other animal stars, such as the original Skipper and the original, male, Lassie



Sordid secrets of the animal media stars

NOT ALL animal film and TV stars get a happy ending. Leo, the MGM lion who roared at the opening of hundreds of movies, was dispatched to a zoo in old age and died within a year. Attempts were made to preserve the site of his grave as a place of historical interest, but he is now commemorated by a somewhat more ignominious car park.

And many have suffered for the sake of their art. Mark McManus, the late Scottish actor, once told of a disastrous early encounter with a kangaroo in the television series, *Skipper*. "One day for a scene they put Skipper up a

tree," he recalled. "No kangaroo is happy up a tree and Skipper panicked. He leapt off and killed himself."

Another loved character, Flipper, the dolphin, also had a less than happy time of it. Her former trainer, Richard O'Barry, revealed in 1993 that the dolphin, whose real name was Kathy, was stolen from her mother, dragged into a concrete pen and starved into performing her apparently cheery tricks.

In the end, she sank to the bottom of her pool, refused to breathe and had to be replaced. A further five each died in turn

of boredom and broken hearts. Perhaps the best-known Hollywood animal, the female Lassie, was actually a male called Pal, who wore a wig on his backside to hide his manhood. Five dogs played the role in seven films made between 1943 and 1951.

But it would be difficult to say what became of one of the latest animal film megastars - the pigs who played Babe. There were 48 of them.

One of Britain's own best loved pets, the original Peira, died within days of the dog's debut on the children's BBC television programme *Blue Peter*. An identical puppy was hastily purchased.

San Francisco
£329 rtn

World Offers.

Flight prices from:

Paris
£75 rtn

Munich
£107 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call us now on:
0345 222111 Book by 30th September '98.
or see your Travel Agent

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods vary. Includes pre-paid taxes correct at 19th August 1998. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your Travel Agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

Education chief quits after report

A DIRECTOR of education resigned yesterday as councillors tried to head off the first Government takeover of a failing local education authority.

Ian Jennings is to take early retirement "by mutual agreement" after a report on Calderdale, condemned two years ago for the collapse of discipline at the Rikings school, attacked senior managers' lack of vision and leadership.

Last month, inspectors savaged the Labour-run council for a second time in 18 months after they found that it was failing to raise standards.

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said that efforts to improve education in Calderdale were being undermined by bad management and warned that it could lose control of its schools. She gave the council until Monday to draw up an ac-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

tion plan. Legislation, passed this summer, allows the Government to take over failing local authorities.

A report prepared by consultants, called in by the council's chief executive and published yesterday, paints a picture of councillors who spend hours debating trivial issues and officers forced to attend so many meetings that they cannot get anything done.

Schools complain that they are treated with rudeness or indifference and their calls for help go unanswered.

The obsession with detailed interference in schools, says the report, "results in an out-dated and out-moded way of operating and exacerbates the frustration schools feel".

Many people believe, says Simon Jenkin, former chief education officer in Devon and co-author of the report, that councillors insist on so many meetings because they want to collect as much as possible from attendance allowances.

That perception may be unfair, he adds, but there should be changes in the way councillors are paid.

Mr Jenkin argues that "key senior staff lack any vision and sense of direction for the service... a picture emerges to us of a department which is unwilling to change".

His report questions whether Calderdale should continue to run its schools. Its failure, he warns, would affect every authority in the country.

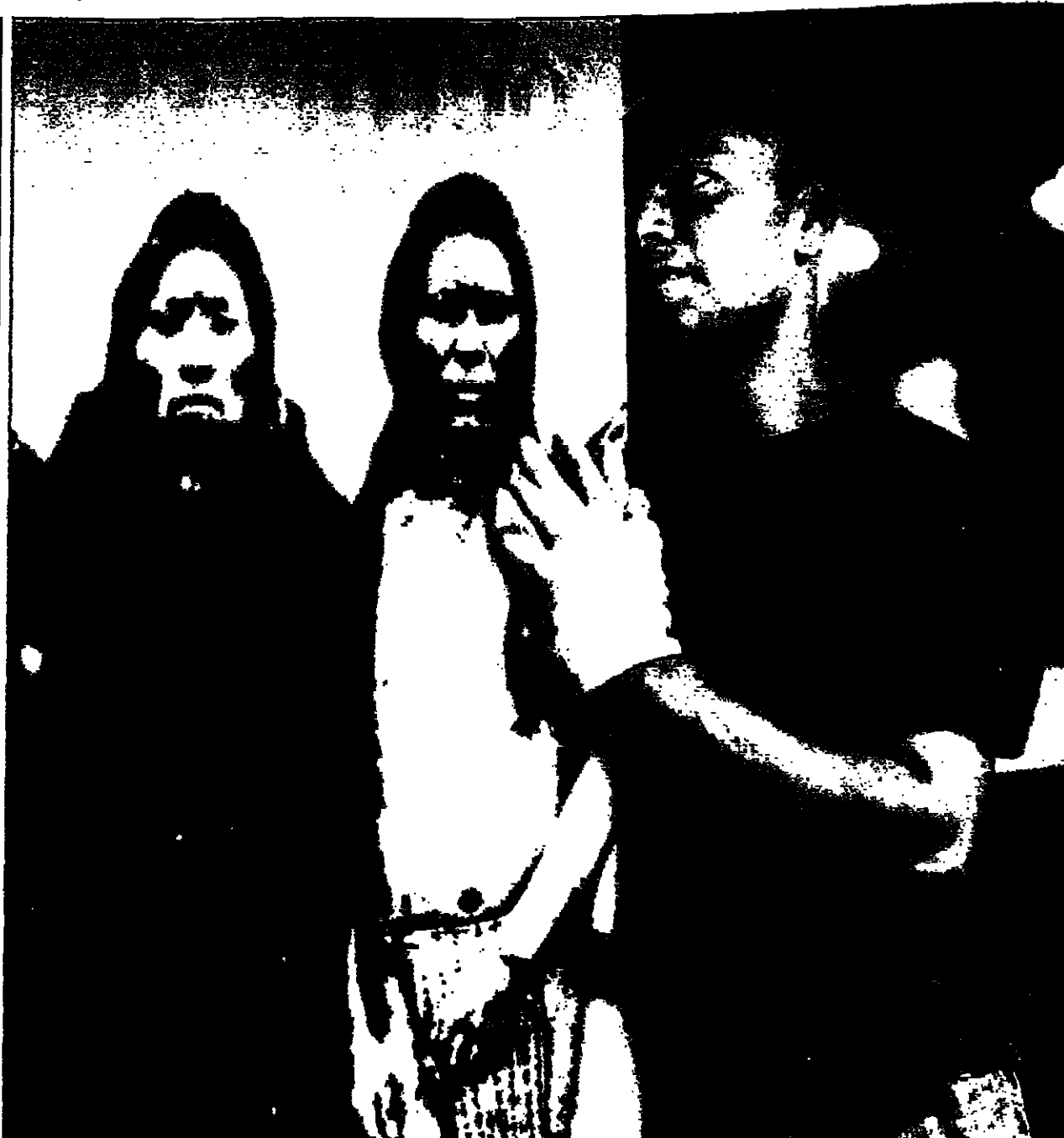
A statement from the council said: "Ian Jennings has considered his position and it has

been agreed by all parties that it would be in the interests of the service that he take early retirement." The decision will be put to the education committee tomorrow.

Helen Rivron, education committee chair, said she was confident that the action plan would be accepted by ministers.

Neil Fletcher, head of education at the Local Government Association, said: "There is still a mountain to climb for Calderdale in its bid to raise standards. Brave decisions must now be taken."

Another troubled council, Hackney in East London, has hired a private firm to help run a failing primary school. The Centre for British Teachers, a non-profit making company, has appointed a head for Rams Episcopal school. It will also advise the school on standards.



An assistant helps to place one of the art exhibits during preparations for the Native Nations exhibition, which is due to open at the Barbican Centre, in the City of London, tomorrow
Rui Xavier

Council promotes private schools

A LOCAL authority is sending parents of all 11-year-olds a brochure for nearby fee-paying schools that are in direct competition with its state schools.

Tory-controlled Wandsworth in south London, which is also sending out a guide to state schools in the borough, says it was forced to produce the in-

BY JUDITH JUDD

dependent schools' booklet because the Government has abolished the assisted places scheme. The guides are designed for pupils transferring to secondary school next autumn.

Last year, the council included the borough's two inde-

pendent schools in its guide with details of the scheme, which subsidised places for bright pupils in private schools. This year, it lists 10 private schools within striking distance of Wandsworth children in a brochure paid for by the schools.

Malcolm Grimston, chair of the education committee, said:

"It is the council's job to give parents the widest possible information on which to base this vitally important decision."

A National Union of Teachers spokesman said it was disappointing to find "an education authority which doesn't have sufficient confidence in its own schools to promote them solely".

Ferry firm to open 'booze hypermarkets'

THE FERRY operator P&O is to open three drinks hypermarkets in French ports to win a slice of the burgeoning cross-channel alcohol market.

The company wants to enter the £800m-a-year cross-channel market to offset the loss in duty-free sales from next year.

P&O sells more than £200m worth of duty-free goods a year on its ferries but it is set to lose most of that revenue when duty-free ends next June.

Day-trippers looking for cheap drink could be able to shop at P&O warehouses in Calais, Le Havre and Cherbourg from the middle of next year.

The move is set to trigger a battle with the retailers already operating in France, led by Eastenders, the huge Calais cash-and-carry outlet opened 10 years ago by Dave West, a former barrow boy. Tesco, Sains-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

bury and Victoria Wine also have shops in the area.

The market for cheap overseas alcohol has grown at breakneck pace in the past few years and now accounts for around 15 per cent of all drink bought by Britons in off-

licences and supermarkets. Beer tourism cost the Exchequer an estimated £150m a year in lost import duty, according to recent figures.

Graham Dunlop, chairman of P&O Ferries, said the company had identified three sites in the French towns near the boarding points for its ships and added that it was in discussion with the French authorities on building the warehouses.

Mr Dunlop said however that the company had to overcome objections of local shop-

chambers of commerce which own the land.

He said that shoppers with P&O would be able to phone through their orders days before their trip and collect them on their departure for England, a facility offered by few existing warehouses. The shops would have large car parks.

Mr West, the pioneer of cross-channel shopping, said he was not concerned by the P&O offensive. "It's very, very competitive over here," he said. "The mere fact that it is a P&O cash-and-carry is not going to convince people to go there without shopping around."

Mr West, who has built Eastenders into a £42m-a-year business, said that the transport giant would find it very difficult to make a profit on its sales as margins in the warehouse business were much lower than in duty-free sales.

Dixons

Sale

STARTS THIS WEEK

SAVE UP TO 50%

ON PORTABLE AUDIO

PRICE CHECK

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

HALF PRICE



Goodmans GCD91EQ
40 SECOND ANTI-SHOCK
PERSONAL CD PLAYER
• Remote control • Mains adaptor.
Was £149.99.

SAVE £75
£74.99

PERSONAL HI-FI SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE

MATSUI BXF01 PERSONAL STEREO WITH RADIO • FM/AM stereo radio • Bass boost • Auto stop • Self-cy. Was £29.99. EXCLUSIVE £13.99	MATSUI 884 PERSONAL STEREO • Bass boost • Auto stop. Was £29.99. EXCLUSIVE £4.99
SONY EX650 PERSONAL STEREO • Auto reverse playback • Dolby noise reduction • Bass boost. Was £39.99. EXCLUSIVE £34.99	SONY EX650 PERSONAL STEREO • Remote control • Up to 20 hours playback. Was £54.99. FREE ROLLERBLADE T-SHIRT Ask for details. EXCLUSIVE £49.99
SONY FX685 PERSONAL STEREO WITH RADIO • Auto reverse playback • 20 preset stations. Was £79.99. FREE T-SHIRT Ask for details. EXCLUSIVE £69.99	

CD RADIO CASSETTES SAVE UP TO £30

MATSUI CD07 CD RADIO CASSETTE • AM/FM stereo radio. Was £39.99. EXCLUSIVE £38.99	aiwa CD RADIO CASSETTE • FM/AM stereo radio. Was £69.99. EXCLUSIVE £69.99
SONY 2305 CD RADIO CASSETTE FM/AM/LW digital tuner with 30 presets. Was £179.99. FREE ROLLERBLADE T-SHIRT Ask for details. EXCLUSIVE £159.99	Panasonic RXD77 COSRA TOP CD RADIO CASSETTE FM/AM/LW digital tuner. Was £199.99. EXCLUSIVE £179.99

CD PERSONAL HI-FI SAVE UP TO 50%

Saisho CD005 PERSONAL CD PLAYER • Mains adaptor. • LCD display. • Repeat function. Was £29.99. EXCLUSIVE £29.99	Goodmans GCD28R PERSONAL CD PLAYER • 10 second anti-shock. • Mains adaptor. Was £79.99. EXCLUSIVE £44.99
HITACHI CDAS-130 SILVER SECOND ANTI-SHOCK PERSONAL CD PLAYER • Bass boost • Mains adaptor • Programmable CD. Was £29.99. EXCLUSIVE £29.99	Goodmans GCD7R PERSONAL CD PLAYER • 10 second anti-shock. • Mains adaptor. Was £79.99. EXCLUSIVE £59.99
Panasonic SL5220 10 SECOND ANTI-SHOCK PERSONAL CD PLAYER • Bass boost • Mains adaptor. • Up to 20 hours playback. Was £139.99. EXCLUSIVE £89.99	Panasonic SL512 PERSONAL CD PLAYER • Bass boost • 24 track programmable CD. • Up to 10 hours playback. Was £79.99. EXCLUSIVE £59.99
	SONY DE400CK PERSONAL CD PLAYER Was £199.99. FREE ROLLERBLADE T-SHIRT Ask for details. EXCLUSIVE £99.99
	PHILIPS AZN81 PERSONAL CD PLAYER • 25 second anti-shock. • Rechargeable battery. Was £119.99. HURRY! LIMITED STOCK. EXCLUSIVE £109.99
	SONY DEX70 BLUE PERSONAL CD PLAYER • 15" shock protection. • Remote control. Was £179.99. FREE ROLLERBLADE T-SHIRT Ask for details. EXCLUSIVE £149.99

aiwa

CSDES155 PORTABLE CD RADIO CASSETTE

• FM/AM/LW radio.
• Programmable CD.
• Tone control.
Was £89.99.

£79.99

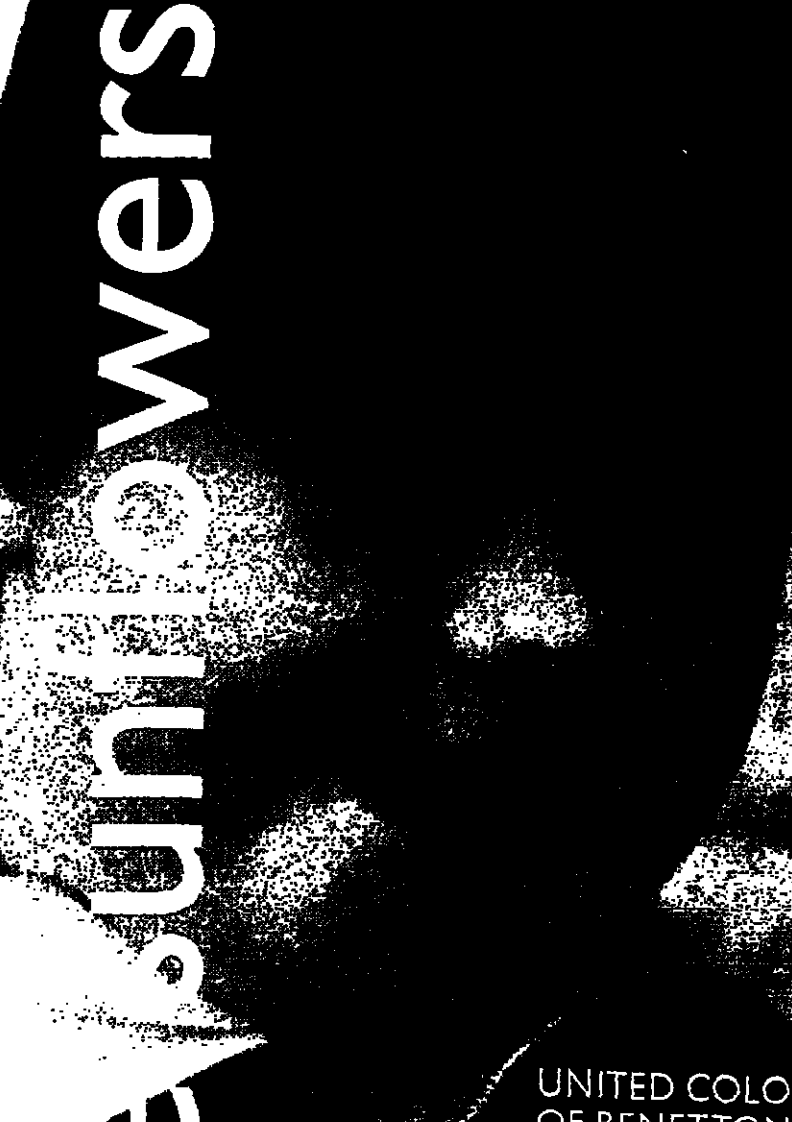
SAVE £10

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

the paintowers



UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

In association with

care

July 20 1998

Bogus doctor who ruined lives is jailed

A BOGUS doctor, who made thousands of pounds and ruined hundreds of lives with his phoney diagnoses, was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Godwin Onubogu, 57, was found guilty of a series of charges, including indecent assault, wounding, obtaining money by deception, supplying prescriptions and perverting the court of justice during two Old Bailey trials. Sentencing him, yesterday, Judge Gerald Gordon said: "Those who submit themselves to medical treatment have got to be protected against charlatans - that is what you are."

The "barely educated" laboratory technician was a one man medical crime wave, it was claimed. The sheer scale of the damage caused was such that Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, was forced to issue an unprecedented alert for patients who had received his treatment.

Onubogu carried out HIV and cervical smear tests which were worthless and left patients without a proper course of treatment and at risk. He also appeared in court as an expert witness on behalf of those charged with drinking and driving, in return for fees of around £8,000 per case.

Following the appeal by Sir Kenneth the search began for up to 500 patients who had been given cervical smear and HIV tests by Onubogu. Further appeals from a number of health authorities asking anyone who had been treated by Onubogu to contact them. Around 100 did so, the rest still have not been traced.

A loophole in the law led to the Health and Safety Executive, the General Medical Council and the Royal College of Pathologists being frustrated in attempts to take any action against the Nigerian father-of-two. Onubogu, who came to

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Britain 31 years ago, claimed to have various qualifications, including a doctorate from the Columbia Pacific University awarded after a correspondence course. He also claimed to have worked at the London Chest Hospital and the Laboratory of London Chemists.

He falsely boasted that he had diagnosed that Kenny Everett, the late DJ, suffered from AIDS, and in one of the references he supplied for himself he wrote "Onubogu is an enigma whom we all admire and glorify". In reality his "medical

officials after hearing medical samples including blood, urine and tissues were being kept under dangerous conditions. But attempts to close it down failed. The council discovered there was nothing to stop anyone from setting themselves up in a laboratory and calling themselves a doctor, as long as they did not say they were registered.

His cases included one woman with sleeping difficulties who was charged £415 and told she must have contracted a sexual disease from her partner. The couple split up. A patient with a cut on his hand was told he had infected with a sexual disease by his wife. A couple who went to him with their children was told the whole family had venereal disease. The mother and father separated. A woman who told Onubogu that she was about to get married to her African fiancée was told she had given him gonorrhoea.

Many of the tests involved intimate physical examinations, over which Onubogu was charged with indecent assault. He is also alleged to have indecently assaulted a 15-year-old girl he examined.

Onubogu was discovered giving evidence as an expert witness for accused drink drivers at up to £8,000 a time. One of his favourite diagnoses was that the driver was "an unwilling victim of his aberrant biochemistry". Almost all of it was described at his subsequent Old Bailey trial as "nonsense, rubbish and lies".

Detectives took along a qualified chemist to the clinic and in his opinion none of the equipment was capable of analysing alcohol in blood or urine.

Further searches revealed the sheer extent of the misdiagnosis, non-existent or wrong treatment and the arbitrary doling out of prescription medicine being carried out by Onubogu.



Godwin Onubogu



The next Miss World will appear without make-up and wear a T-shirt and jeans, unlike her predecessors including Diana Hayden, the reigning Miss World (above), Kiki Haakansson, the first winner (top) and Giselle Laronde, the winner in 1986 (right)



Miss World reconstructed for TV

HOW DO you counter accusations that Miss World is sexist and a cattle market?

The answer, apparently, is to show the girls without make-up and to reposition the contest as an exercise in girl power.

Street credibility is about to be given to one of the most politically incorrect of British traditions. The Miss World contest is likely to return to terrestrial television after years in exile, complete with rock music, trendy presenters and the most beautiful women in the world without their make-up.

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

In his 48th year of promoting the contest, Eric Morley, veteran impresario, has bowed to accusations that the contest is sexist and old fashioned and hired the producer of *The Brits*, *The Pepsi Chart* and *The Three Tenors* concerts to bring the contest into the Nineties.

Malcolm Gerrie, head of the independent television company Initial TV, said yesterday the show would be back on British screens when it takes place in

the Seychelles in November. He said he was in discussion with two terrestrial broadcasters.

"I have been given complete freedom," he said. "I have insisted that the girls no longer wear national dress. I don't even know what the national dress of England is. I have insisted that we show them backstage, without make-up and actually doing activities and sports in T-shirts and jeans."

"I have insisted that we have access for the first time to the judges' meetings, so we can see what they look for in a girl. And

I will want colish presenters with a youth following, possibly someone like Chris Evans or Geri Halliwell." He added that he wanted to get across the idea that Miss World was about "empowerment".

The theory that the contest could be remoulded as a vestige of girl power was endorsed by his co-producer, Julie Cave.

She said: "I've had plenty of stick for taking on this job, especially from my friends. But I'm a girlie and I believe in a girlie's right to choose."

"And if her figure and her

face are her best assets then that's fine."

The show will be directed by Harnish Hamilton of MTV, the television music channel.

Though the contest has long been a dig in Britain, it remains one of the top-rated events worldwide with 1.4 billion viewers in 130 countries. In Latin America it gets a far bigger audience than the Oscars.

A spokesman for the Seychelles Tourist Board said that the contest would show that the Seychelles was interested in developing eco-tourism.

Drug offenders face DNA tests in crime crackdown

DNA SAMPLES are to be taken from all convicted drug dealers and users in one of Britain's largest police force areas.

In what is believed to be the first mass-testing of drug offenders, an estimated 1,500 profiles are expected to be added to the national DNA database during the next three months. The profiles will be checked against DNA samples taken from the scene of unsolved crimes to see if there is a link.

If the pilot programme, which begins in the West Mid-

lands in October, proves successful it is expected to be adopted by other police forces.

The initiative follows nationwide research earlier this year which found that more than 60 per cent of criminal suspects who agreed to be tested for illegal drugs proved positive.

Home Office figures suggest that a third of property crimes are carried out by drug users needing to fund their habit - an annual total of about

£2.5m. A typical heroin or crack cocaine addict is likely to steal property worth between £10,000 and £20,000 a year.

Research carried out by West Midlands Police, during a month in Solihull, revealed that half of 108 people arrested were regular heroin users. Between them they had accumulated property from thefts and burglaries worth £1.1m.

From next month anyone who is charged or cautioned in the West Midlands for possessing, dealing or transporting drugs will be added to the na-

tional database. Until now forces have tended to use DNA sampling for violent crimes, sexual offences and burglary. Tests are not routinely carried out for drug offences, partly because of the expense.

Detective Inspector Richard Leary, West Midlands' scientific development officer, said: "After the trial is launched, anybody who is financing a drug habit or a drugs network through crime is liable to be linked, not only with a particular drugs crime, but also with other crimes used to finance their lifestyle."

IN BRIEF

GP remanded in custody on patient murder charge

DETECTIVES ARE investigating the deaths of 27 patients under the care of a doctor who was yesterday charged with murder. Harold Shipman, 52, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, was remanded in custody until 15 September by Tameside magistrates. Ashton, charged with the murder of his patient, Kathleen Grundy, 81, on 24 June, falsifying a £300,000 will, and forging documents.

Man dies while under police guard

AN INVESTIGATION began yesterday after a 44-year-old man died while being detained by police in a hospital. The unnamed man, from Bracknell, Berkshire, died at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough last Saturday. A police spokesman said officers had been called in after the man had reacted badly to being informed of an illness.

Robber's blast injures Britons

SIX BRITISH holiday-makers including a one-year-old baby were injured yesterday when a robber threw explosives at a bank in the Dutch ferry port of Hook. They were a couple in their 60s and a family of four. All were hit by flying glass but released from hospital after treatment.

Suicide most common in Scotland

PEOPLE in Scotland are more likely to kill themselves than those in other parts of Britain, and Manchester is the suicide capital of England, according to a report from the Office for National Statistics yesterday. Poorer areas have more suicides than others.

Woman stabbed to death in alley

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman was fatally stabbed in an alleyway on her way to work at a city centre bank yesterday. Police said Rukana Begum was killed less than 50 yards from her home in Handsworth, Birmingham, just after 8.15am. West Midlands police have appealed for witnesses.

Ivory box bought for £9 goes on sale for £300,000

A CARVED ivory box bought for £9 may fetch up to £300,000 at auction after it was recognised as 1,000 years old and one of the most significant Islamic discoveries for decades.

Only seven other dated examples of such ivory vessels are known to exist, and all are in museums.

Marcus Fraser, director of Sotheby's Islamic and Indian department, said: "This box is definitely one of the major Islamic discoveries in living memory."

"The astonishing quality, beauty, rarity and art-historical significance of this box make it one of the most outstanding Islamic works of art ever to come to auction."

Nicholas Shaw, an expert in the auction house's Islamic department, said he took a "sharp intake of breath" when he was first sent photographs by the curious owner.

"I could hardly believe it. Pieces such as these are so rare and I couldn't imagine that one could turn up in Yorkshire," said Mr Shaw. The vendor, who does not

wish to be named, had attended the sale where it was bought with his uncle in 1947, when he was 12.

It was part of a job lot with other ornamental items in the sale of contents of Hickleton Hall, near Doncaster - the former home of the first Earl of Halifax - and the uncle bid just £9-19-6d.

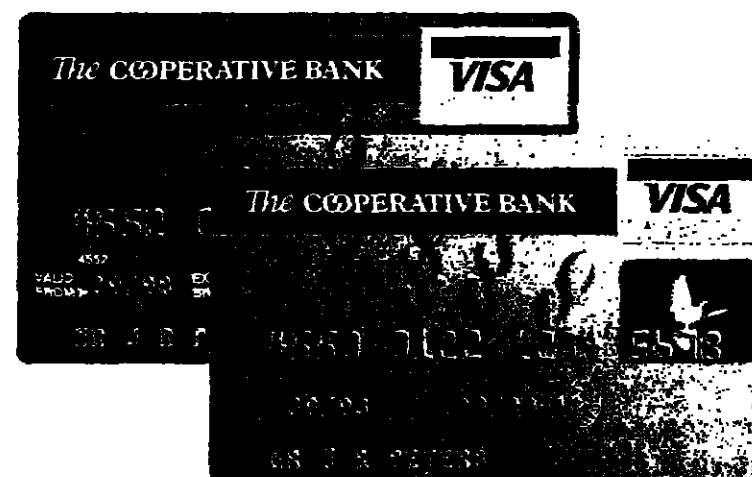
The current owner inherited the box when his uncle died, and kept it in the hall of his home in Yorkshire.

Intrigued by its history, he took it to experts at the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* last year. They recommended he contact auctioneers.

The box is one of a small surviving group of vessels made in the late 10th and early 11th century to glorify the lifestyles of the great Muslim rulers in the Spanish city of Cordoba. They appear to have been made exclusively for the ruling family.

The box is a star lot in an auction on 15 October during Sotheby's Islamic week.

Down with debt.



8.6% APR

Guaranteed until April '99

The Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit and gold cards offer an introductory rate of just 8.6% APR, fixed until April. Even then it reverts to just 13.8% APR variable - one of the lowest standard rates available. With savings of up to £420 in interest payments, this is an

excellent deal for those who carry over a credit card balance each month. If that sounds like you, transfer your existing balance to us now. You can even keep your current credit card limit. Just call the freephone number below anytime.

www.advantage-visa.co.uk

Save up to £420
No annual fee
Just 13.8% APR variable from April '99
Keep your credit limit
No need to bank with us

0800 126 000

Post to: Visa dept., The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., FREEPOST (988) 921, Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 126 000 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capital.

Full name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone number _____

Please tick card interested in ☐ Visa Card ☐ Gold Visa Card

Credit facilities are subject to status. Western questions are available on request. Information provided and be passed to our credit review department for credit assessment, prior to any application being being processed. A copy of the enquiry may be retained. The Co-operative Bank reserves the right to decline any application. Payment is 2% of your outstanding balance each month (minimum £5 or more if you wish). Typical example is based on a current balance of £2,000 over 14 months. Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards at 13.8% APR have no interest free period and would cost £781.20. Barriest Bank credit card at 22.9% APR would cost £1,100.40. All APRs are variable and exclude annual fees where appropriate.

British Association: Predisposition to social problems inherited; orgasms aid fertility; and 'phantom limb syndrome'

Boys lack gene to prevent autism

SCIENTISTS MAY have found a genetic explanation for why boys are four times more likely than girls to suffer from autism, a mental disorder that prevents children from forming normal social bonds with friends and relatives.

Girls appear to inherit a genetic predisposition from their fathers that protects them against autism, whereas boys are more vulnerable because they inherit the factor only from their mothers, whose protective genes are more likely to be switched off.

The research is part of a wider programme of work trying to explain why boys are much more likely than girls to suffer from a range of serious developmental problems involving social behaviour and language, such as autism and attention-deficit disorder.

"Even among normal children, girls generally outperform boys in those very same skills," said Professor David Skuse, of the Institute of Child Health in London.

"We have evidence for a genetic mechanism that could explain female superiority over males in some aspects of social intelligence."

"Boys are far more likely than girls to be socially maladjusted. Social skills are probably distributed as a 'bell curve' in the general population. We have found the curve is shifted to the left in boys, so there are relatively more boys than girls with poor skills."

Severe autism affects about four children in every 10,000, although, if milder autistic symptoms are included, the rate climbs to about one in every 1,000 children.

"The vulnerability of boys to

DEVELOPMENT

autism and other neuro-developmental disorders, all of which are associated with the impairment of social skills, has never been satisfactorily explained," Professor Skuse said. "We propose that there is a lower threshold of susceptibility in boys than girls."

Although boys are more affected than girls, there is no evidence that the genes that predispose to autism are carried on the X-chromosome, as they are with sex-linked disorders such as haemophilia, which usually affect boys but not girls.

Boys have only one X-chromosome, which they inherit from their mothers, whereas girls have two, one from each parent.

"The threshold hypothesis we are suggesting is that normal girls who carry their father's X-chromosome also have a protective factor on that chromosome that helps to prevent them from developing autism," Professor Skuse said.

"We believe it is an imprinted gene, which is switched off when inherited from one parent and switched on when inherited from the other."

"In this particular instance we are suggesting the gene is always switched on when it is transmitted by a father and always switched off when it is transmitted by a mother."

One possible explanation for why boys are more likely to be autistic is that it offered some evolutionary benefit in the past, Professor Skuse said. "It may be that to be slightly less socially responsive may have been an advantage to males."



A workshop at the Festival of Science, in Cardiff, demonstrating how a total eclipse of the Sun will occur on 11 August next year Tom Pilon

Joy of sex can help conception

GOOD NEWS and good sex increase the chances of a woman becoming pregnant, according to research into the effects of stress and sexual enjoyment on fertility.

Women whose IVF treatment is not going well might be more likely to become pregnant at the end of the course if they were spared the results of any tests undertaken during therapy. A separate study has found couples trying to have a baby might be more likely to succeed if women enjoy sex rather than seeing it as an experience that has to be endured as a means to an end.

FERTILITY

Scientists at Cardiff University's school of psychology said they found more sperm in the cervix of women who say they have good sex than in those who say they failed to achieve orgasm. Jacky Boivin, a psychologist from the university, said high numbers of sperm drawn into the cervix may be a factor that can significantly increase chances of conception in women who are not very fertile.

"In such couples, love-making frequently occurs under stressful conditions, as

it is determined by the fertile period rather than sexual desire," she said.

"Previous research demonstrated that generations of mothers have never experienced orgasm, which appears to prove that sexual pleasure is not related to the ability to conceive."

"However, this conclusion does not preclude the possibility that in some groups small effects may take on much greater significance," Dr Boivin said.

A group of 71 women with an average age of 30 took part in the study, which involved

asking them questions about their sexual enjoyment a few hours after intercourse.

This was done when they attended a clinic to have a post-coital test for the quality and quantity of sperm reaching the cervix.

"The findings suggest that the quality of women's sexual response may facilitate the migration of sperm from the vaginal pool to the cervical and uterine environment," Dr Boivin reported to the British Association.

Another study of 107 Cardiff women who had tried for at least seven years to

have babies and were undergoing IVF found that any bad news relayed to them by medical staff when tests were done after 30 days led to a greater risk of treatment failure.

Many doctors assume it is best to relay any negative results to patients during the course of IVF treatment, because it prepares them to accept that they may not become pregnant at the end of the cycle, but the Cardiff researchers found this did not make things any easier for the women if they remained childless.

Mirrors relieve pain of amputee

MIND OVER MATTER

MIRRORS ARE helping patients with amputated limbs to overcome the pain they can still feel in their lost arm or leg.

"Phantom limb syndrome" affects almost everyone who has lost a limb. The imagined limb often becomes painful when apparently distorted in a cramped position.

Professor Vilayanur Ramachandran, director of the centre for brain and cognition at the University of California, said mirrors were proving more effective than powerful pain-killing drugs at relieving the discomfort of the syndrome.

He places a mirror on the side of the lost limb and asks the patient to look at the reflection. "If they look inside the mirror they see the reflection of their normal hand and it looks as if you have given them their phantom back," he said.

Patients frequently complain that their phantom arm has become curled up into a painful position and Professor Ramachandran asks them to put their intact arm into the same position and then to uncurl it so that it becomes normal again.

"If the phantom is in a painful 'cramped' position, we find that merely viewing the reflection of the normal hand in a mirror causes the phantom hand to spring to life and start moving. For many the pain and cramping is instantly relieved."

Professor Ramachandran has also tried mirror therapy on "neglect syndrome" patients who have suffered a stroke or some sort of brain damage to one half of the brain, which causes them to be oblivious to one side of their visual field.

The mirror treatment could help scientists to unravel some of the complex mysteries of the brain, he said. "This has implications for understanding how the brain handles space and how we react to object in mirrors and how your beliefs about objects in the world are affected by this attention deficit."

Fitness and good diet can stop your brain shrinking

EXERCISE FOR the heart may also prevent the onset of senile dementia in later life, according to scientists who have found that the same risk factors associated with a higher chance of cardiovascular disease could also cause a shrinking brain.

Patients with Alzheimer's disease show rapid shrinkage of the brain - 15 per cent a year - which is 10 times faster than occurs in normal ageing, and this might be exacerbated by poor blood flow to the brain.

Professor David Smith, the head of the department of pharmacology at Oxford University, said that people might be able to cut the chances of developing Alzheimer's in later life if they

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

took up regular exercise and a healthy diet. "Several established risk factors for vascular diseases, such as heart disease and stroke, might also be possible risk factors for Alzheimer's disease."

"The risk factors include atherosclerosis, smoking, high cholesterol, previous heart attacks and atrial fibrillation (heart flutter)," Professor Smith said.

"These epidemiological associations need to be confirmed in larger studies but, if they are confirmed, then they raise the hope that preventative medicine can be applied to Alzheimer's disease."

In Britain there are between

600,000 and 800,000 people who suffer from Alzheimer's, and this is expected to double within the next 30 years because of the ageing population, Professor Smith told the British Association.

If a poor blood flow to the brain is linked with an increase in the risk of brain shrinkage, it may be possible to concentrate on preventive strategies that can lower the incidence of Alzheimer's.

"People should be aware that Alzheimer's disease is not an inevitable part of ageing and that it might be modified by environmental factors."

"The striking success of preventative medicine, such as the cessation of smoking, lowering blood cholesterol and by

diet or changes in lifestyle in lowering the incidence of heart disease and stroke is one of the major achievements of modern medicine."

"If a proportion of those who develop Alzheimer's disease do so because of exposure to the same risk factors, then similar measures could be tested to see if they also reduce the incidence of Alzheimer's disease," Professor Smith said.

"Before any steps can be taken, it will be necessary to carry out long and expensive clinical trials in several thousand subjects to see whether modification of one or more of these risk factors can influence the development of dementia."

Unease at use of modified crops

BRITISH SCIENTISTS would oppose the cultivation of some genetically modified (GM) crops that have already been grown in the United States for four years, a senior government adviser said yesterday.

Professor Alan Gray, a member of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, said that crops engineered to be resistant to attacking viruses could eventually lead to "superweeds" through the transfer of the resistance genes to wild plants.

His views reflect the gap between the regulations in the US and Europe - but world trade rules could lead the US to insist that such crops are approved in Britain, despite scientific opposition.

The US approval covers a transgenic squash, a melon-like plant, developed by Upjohn Agrochemicals. It contains genes making it resistant to a virus that

GENETICS

infects watermelons and to another that attacks courgettes. It was passed for sale in 1994 because US government scientists assume that plant viruses, which attack leaves and roots, are particular to plant species and not weeds.

Such plants are a "second-generation" form of GM crop. Most of the "first generation" are resistant to artificial fertilisers rather than natural viruses.

But Professor Gray, based at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, said that ecologists still knew too little about the effects of viruses on plants. "Ecologists have neglected viruses because they're so hard to find and detect in plants. I don't think a UK regulatory committee would release a virus-resistant plant unless we really knew about the role of the virus," he said.

Magic chance to beat the sceptic

JAMES RANDI, the magician and scourge of the paranormal, has challenged 13 Britons to prove they have supernatural powers and win his prize of \$1m (£660,000).

Mr Randi, who has been a constant thorn in the side of Yuri Geller and others who claim extraordinary powers, said that 13 individuals from Britain are competing for the money he has offered to the first person demonstrating paranormal gifts under scientifically controlled conditions.

One man claims to be a human magnet who can pick up paperclips with his forehead, another says he can rewrite the works of Isaac Newton and a third is a woman who claims she can read other people's minds.

Mr Randi, who took part in a session at the British Association on the rise of the paranormal at the end of the millennium, said nobody had been able to convince him sci-

PARANORMAL POWER



James Randi: Certain he will keep his prize money

entifically of paranormal powers and he believes his money will be safe. "Geller says he does his spoon bending by divine means. I do it by tricks. If he's doing it by divine means then he's doing it the hard way," Mr Randi added.

THE WORLDS LEADING NOTEBOOKS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES

Toshiba's Satellite notebooks combine entry-level affordability with uncompromising performance. Just lift the lid on the Satellite 320CDT - providing versatile mobile specification for the amazing price of just £1345 Ex. VAT.

- 233MHz Pentium® MMX™ processor
- Built-in FDD and 20-speed CD-ROM drive
- 3.2GB HDD / 32MB EDO RAM
- High-resolution 12.1" TFT colour screen

TOSHIBA Satellite 320CDT
£1345 Ex. VAT
£1580 Inc. VAT



FROM

PC WORLD
Business
direct

To find out more call us now on
01706 367 567

Fax: 0800 367 567

E-mail: sales@pcworld.co.uk

Also available from PC World Superstores.
Telephone 0800 464 464 for your nearest store.



Toshiba's Satellite Pro notebook PC's offer advanced technology to deliver outstanding performance. Consider the Satellite Pro 490CDT with its high-performance Pentium® processor and built-in CD-ROM, microphone and speakers - offered at a very attractive £1795 Ex. VAT

- 233MHz Pentium II®
- Swappable 20-speed CD-ROM drive
- 3.82GB HDD / 32MB EDO RAM
- High-resolution 12.1" TFT colour screen



TO AFFORD

TO BUY

TOSHIBA

Toshiba, the Intel Pentium logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks acknowledged. Prices listed are correct at time of going to press. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. The photograph of the product may not always match the specifications in this document. All sales are subject to PC World Business direct standard terms and conditions of sale, which are available on request. Registered Office: PC World Business Direct, Green Lane, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2DY. *Free carry case and 32MB RAM only available on Satellite Pro 490CDT, while stocks last. Please note the free carry case 32MB RAM memory may not be supplied. A small installation charge may be made.

REPORTS FROM CARDIFF BY STEVE CONNOR AND CHARLES ARTHUR

Failing rail firms may lose franchise

A CRACKDOWN on privatised rail operators whose passengers suffer poor standards of service is to be announced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, in the next few weeks.

The rail regulators will be ordered to intervene more speedily when trains are repeatedly cancelled or late and the rail companies may face instant fines of at least £1m. At present, they are served

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

notice that they will be penalised if they do not meet their licence conditions over the following four weeks.

As a last resort, operators who persistently let down their passengers before they come up for renewal.

Mr Prescott has ordered his officials to find ways of beefing

up the existing regulatory regime that would not require legislation, after failing to win a promise from Tony Blair that his plans to set up a powerful strategic rail authority would be included in the Queen's Speech in November. The Government's programme will be discussed tomorrow at Chequers, to which Mr Blair has summoned the Cabinet for a one-day strategy session.

Yesterday, Mr Prescott said

there were "quite a lot of things" he could do without legislation.

"There are measures I can adopt with regard to the railways which are now under full consideration," he said.

Ministers said Mr Prescott was drawing up a new package of measures to safeguard passengers, which he may unveil at the Labour Party conference at the end of this month. He is alarmed by persistent

evidence that the rail operators are letting down their customers.

Last month, the official passenger watchdog attacked the "truly dreadful performance" by some companies in the first full year since privatisation, and the regulatory body revealed that punctuality had declined on 48 routes and improved on only 16.

Yesterday, the French-owned Connex company, which

operates the South Eastern and South Central commuter routes in and around London, came under fire from MPs and passenger watchdogs for failing to disclose bonuses of between £20,000 and £30,000 for its directors.

On his return from holiday, Mr Prescott moved to reassure Labour MPs and pressure groups worried that the White Paper on transport he unveiled in July had effectively been

shelved by Mr Blair's refusal to provide legislative time. "I understand their concerns but they are not warranted," he said, insisting that his proposals were "right on the front burner".

Mr Prescott insisted that the Government would press ahead with the plan for setting up the rail authority and letting local authorities charge motorists for driving into cities and levy a charge on workplace

parking places. "I am more than satisfied that we are on our way to achieving it and working with a Prime Minister who fully believes in it," he said.

Government sources suggested that Mr Blair was happy to see the crackdown on the rail companies go ahead but admitted that he was cautious about the introduction of measures to penalise motorists in the run-up to the next general election.



William Hague, flanked by Cecil Parkinson, Tory party chairman, and Peter Lilley, Deputy Leader, at the meeting yesterday

John Voos

Hague makes return to bonding ways

THE GAME is Bond, Tory Bond. One year after William Hague's inaugural "brain-storming and bonding" session for his party, the Conservatives were at it again yesterday, learning to love each other and the electorate in another country-casual charm offensive.

Many swapping their Westminster pin-stripes for multi, the Shadow Cabinet went on an awayday "strategy" meeting in a hotel in deepest Buckinghamshire, in an attempt to sharpen their attacks on the Government and develop their own policies.

Much has happened since the Tories last staged a similar C&A catalogue shoot in Eastbourne, including the Prime Minister's decision to cut his Caesar haircut, the Formula One tobacco advertising row, "Drapergate" and the haemorrhaging of thousands of jobs by manufacturing industry.

Yet one political fact that has not changed is the Tories' poor fortune in the opinion polls, with the party scarcely denting Tony Blair's popularity.

However, after his bold decision to call a snap referendum on Europe among party members, the Tory leader arrived at Hartwell House Hotel yesterday basking in the front-page attention that stems from what his aide described as a daring

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

"coup de théâtre". As he has just come from Lord Rothermere's funeral, Mr Hague could hardly have been expected to be wearing a beach shirt and shorts, but he immediately flung off the jacket of his somber blue suit to join his colleagues for a photo-opportunity around the brain-storming table.

His tie loosened and his face bright with the look of a man who is finally setting the political agenda rather than following it, a rejuvenated Mr Hague rallied his troops at their first "bonding" session of the day with his plans to carry the anti-euro message across the country in the next three weeks before the party conference.

As much as the focus groups may tell them to offer a more relaxed image, the Tories know that it is going to take more than a pair of nice slacks and choice knitwear to make themselves electable again.

However, the party is belatedly learning that presentation is important. Relieved aides confided that Michael Ancram, the incoming chair man, was definitely not likely to repeat last year's acoustic guitar rendition of "Bridge over Troubled Water". Phew.

Priest jailed for charging to bury stillborn babies

A PRIEST WHO deceived grieving parishioners by overcharging for funerals was jailed yesterday for nine months after admitting 11 offences of false accounting.

The Rev Roy Hibbert even charged distraught parents to bury stillborn babies when the service should have been provided by the church free. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Sentencing Hibbert, of Newport, Shropshire, Judge Frank Chapman told him: "You would not dream of stealing from someone's purse or home or car, but the result of your actions is just the same." But he told the 68-year-old clergyman he believed he had worked "selflessly" for 42 years, "always putting the needs of others before his own". The priest's recent actions were a stain on his long and good career, adding: "Even ordained priests can fall victim to temptation."

The well-respected Anglican dean was arrested after

BY RACHEL CROFTS

members of his flock in the churches of St Nicholas, Newport, St Michael's, Chelwynd, and All Saints, Forton, said they were being overcharged for weddings and funerals.

The court was told how Hibbert, who has two children, began defrauding the church in 1986. Nigel Rumbold QC, for the prosecution, said Hibbert overcharged for weddings and funerals, where he would make parishioners pay "vicar's extras" and lied to the diocese about his earnings from congregation contributions. Because the priest under-declared his annual earnings, he was awarded extra income from church funds. "He was engaged in a large-scale fraud, cheating not only the church itself but the parishioners and those lay parishioners who helped with the administration of the church. He enriched himself by tens of thousands of pounds."



Roy Hibbert: Admitted 11 false accounting offences

The prosecution had alleged Hibbert had defrauded the diocese of £50,000 but yesterday Judge Chapman said he accepted the figure was more likely to be around £30,000.

After the hearing, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Keith Sutton, said: "It is tragic that a priest who has been

highly regarded in the parish he has served should have his ministry come to an end in such a regrettable manner."

A statement on behalf of the bishop said the diocese had put into place new accountancy procedures to protect clergy and parishes they served.

It added: "Fortunately, such an incident as this is extremely rare and we are resolved to ensure the church is able to handle its financial affairs in a manner in which the public can have confidence."

One of Hibbert's victims, Louise Talbot, of Newport, Shropshire, was duped twice, paying £118 for her first wedding, which should have cost £37 and, when that marriage failed, a further £320 for what should have been a £40 blessing with her second husband.

Yesterday she said: "Who can you trust if you can't trust your vicar, if you can't trust the person who is next to godliness in your eyes?"

Rabbit Rabbit

Move to Cable & Wireless and get 100 minutes' worth of free local evening calls every month.

Free Call 0800 056 8182
What can we do for you?

Private health insurance from just 48p a day.

Why pay more?

Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out more.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group
Ref: M11898NG

You're only really covered with

WORLD COVER
ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

QUICK FIX

These are the facts. There's no tortoiseshell Santa Claus in this fix. There will only be quick fix for the Action Pack Bug. Your business is at risk. You are not alone. Action 2000 has been set up to help. You are better off. Quick fix now! Call 0845 601 2000 for your free Action Pack.

For your free Action Pack send this coupon to Action 2000, P.O. Box 1080, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9ES, fax us on 01923 474 584, call 0845 601 2000 or visit our website at www.bug2000.co.uk

Name _____
Position _____ Company _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Business Type _____ No. of Employees ☐ 1-9 ☐ 10-49 ☐ 50-99 ☐ 100+

Act 2000

Offering is valid until 31/10/98. All information correct as at 1st August 1998 and subject to standard conditions only. Applications subject to credit check. Service price and usage subject to change. For quality of service purposes we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls on Cable & Wireless Call Centre.

ADVERTISEMENT

Public Announcement

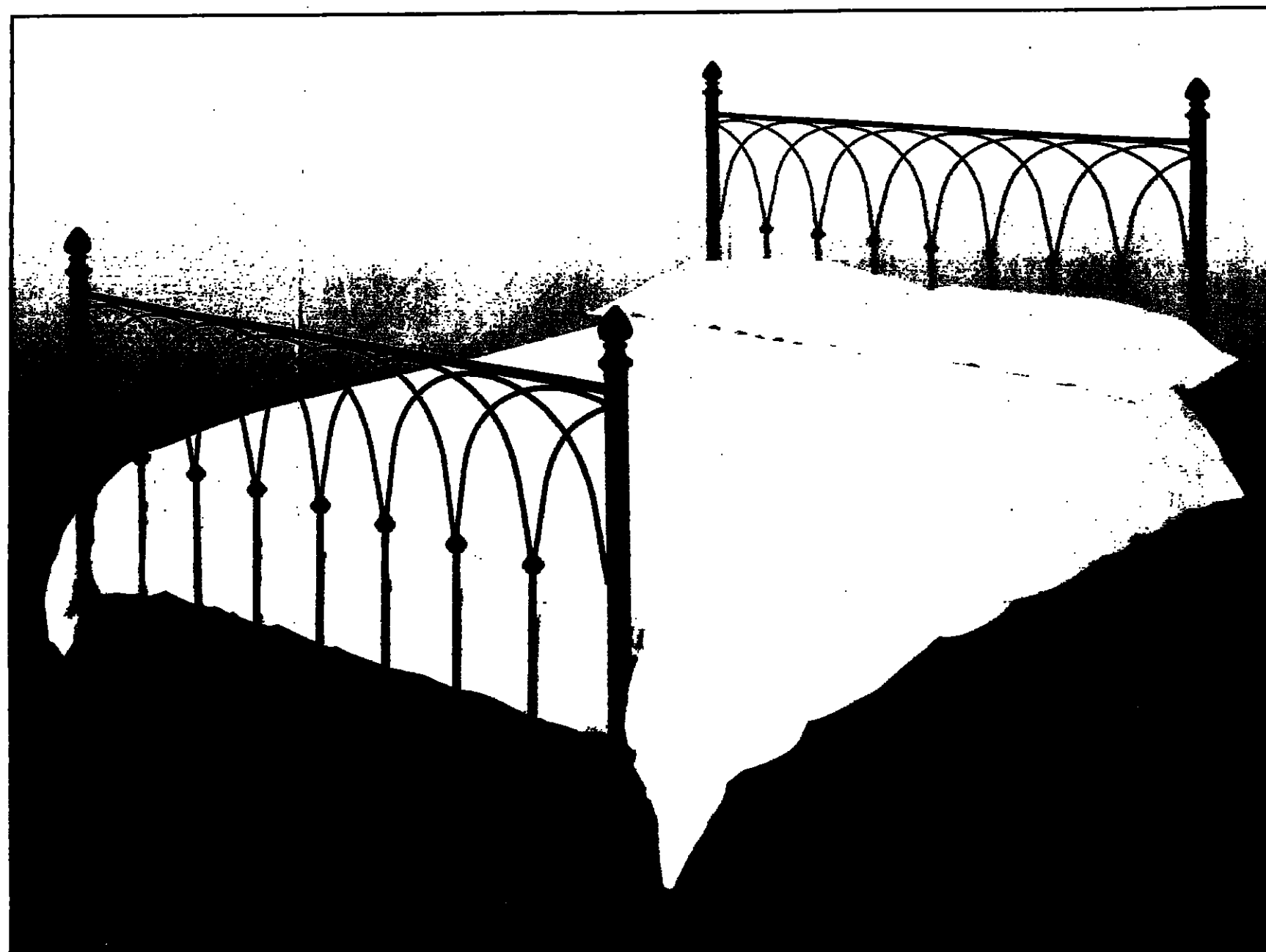
Emergency Clearance

We have a quantity of handcrafted beds to be disposed of.

Why pay retail prices of between £600 and £2000.

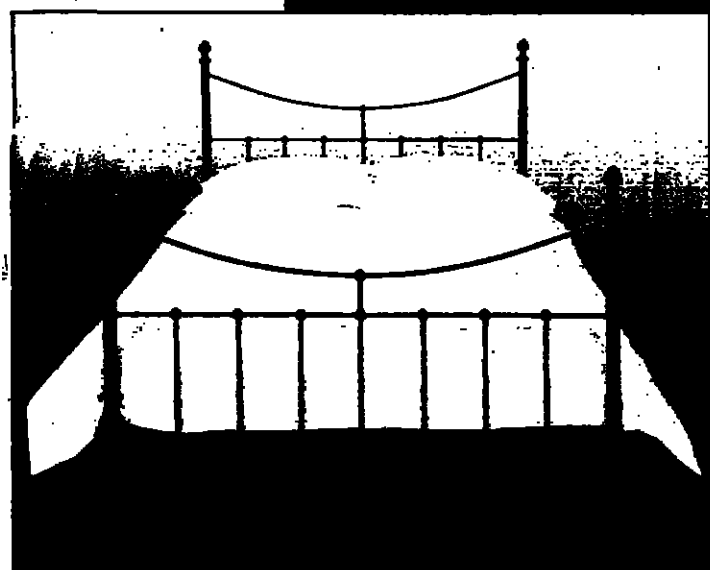
Wrought Iron Beds

Paris Bed



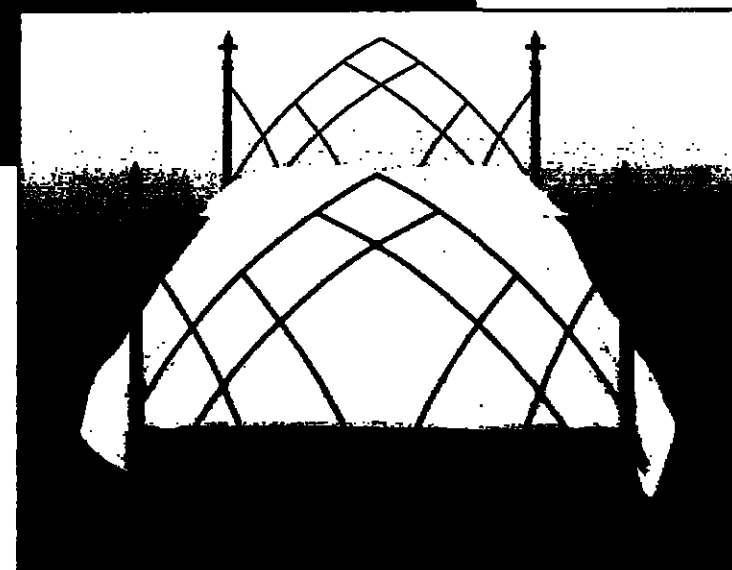
Only
£295
each

Only
£295
each



Victorian Bed

Only
£295
each



Gothic Bed

Phone now for details 0171 631 3498

Birmingham:
0121 236 4880

Bristol:
0117 929 0773

Cardiff:
01222 666691

Edinburgh:
0131 221 1776

Exeter:
01392 276114

Leeds:
0113 244 5655

Manchester:
0161 236 9008

Newcastle:
0191 260 2422

Norwich:
01603 664494

Southampton:
01703 634331

The Wrought Iron Bed Factory, 25 Goodge Street, London W1 (off Tottenham Court Road)
30 day money back guarantee

Nationwide deliveries available

0171 631 3498

Yeltsin fiddles as Russia broods

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin spent another day yesterday brooding over what to do next in his stand-off with parliament, as food and fuel shortages and panic-buying gathered momentum across the country.

Leaderless, bankrupt and bewildered, Russia waited for news of the President's plans, amid new warnings that deepening economic misery could turn into unrest.

The latest of these comes from the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexei II,

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow and
ANNA BAKHEN
in St Petersburg

who has consistently supported Mr Yeltsin, and the ruling elite of politicians and oligarchs that loosely coalesced around him during better days. "The worst thing that the current political crisis could bring is civil war, for surely blood always divides," the cleric said.

Similar fears were expressed by the head of the

Communists, Gennady Zyuganov, who warned that there could be a social explosion if Mr Yeltsin decides to nominate Viktor Chernomyrdin for a third, final time, after the premier's decisive rejection by the State Duma on Monday.

If Mr Chernomyrdin loses again, and the Duma is disbanded, then there would be trouble, he warned. "To disband the Duma means to disband the Russian Federation. I am afraid we will have uprisings throughout Russia."

Pressure is growing on Mr Yeltsin to abandon Mr Chernomyrdin, and nominate a compromise candidate, although there are signs that he may find it hard to recruit a leader who is both acceptable to the Duma and willing to grasp what amounts to a poisoned chalice.

The Communists and the liberal Yabloko party both would vote for Yevgeny Primakov, the foreign minister, but yesterday he issued a statement saying that he did not want the job. Similar sentiments came from

the other favourite, Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow. As the deadlock drags on, shelves are emptying as Russians snap up survival food like flour, oil, butter, canned fish and sugar. There are shortages of petrol and imported goods.

Kaliningrad, between Poland and Lithuania, yesterday declared "a state of emergency" and announced that it would take responsibility for political and economic issues, although it toned this down after Moscow protested that it was illegal.

As Russia unravels, tragedy is interrupted by the bizarre. Overworked prosecutors in Moscow have been asking questions about the fate of a life-sized cake of Lenin, which was displayed at an art gallery, and eventually eaten by guests.

And spare a thought for the British - 139 British companies yesterday opened a trade fair in St Petersburg. "There is a market for everything, whether there is a crisis or not," said Dave Chapman, from the Jerome Group, a Derby-based

fabrics company. Although he had only one potential Russian customer, he said that he was "still optimistic".

Not so, Russian onlookers. Marina Grigoryeva, a 46-year-old paediatrician, said: "Do these people really think it is appropriate selling computers when all some people can afford with their monthly salaries is a pack of cigarettes?" Three weeks ago her monthly salary was worth \$50; now it is worth only £11.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Potato crisis strains morale

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

"WE WILL survive as long as we have potatoes," is a belief to which long-suffering Russians hold. They were clinging to it last week as the rouble plunged, as queues outside banks and stores lengthened, as 19th-century institutions such as pawnshops came back into fashion. True, during the Second World War, starving people in Leningrad licked glue from wallpaper. But for Russians in peacetime, having potatoes has been the bottom line.

Now comes the bad news. On top of financial and political chaos, there is a crisis in the fields. August 1998 was an unusually rainy month and the potato harvest in European Russia is a disaster. If there is a point at which Russian patience expires, it might be here.

The road that runs out of Moscow southwest towards Ryazan is usually lined at this time of year with villagers selling potatoes from buckets. In the past two or three years, city-dwellers have got used to well-stocked if pricey shops and grown lazy at digging at their dachas or planted flowers there instead. They have known that they could always buy the staple potato from these small-holders.

But yesterday, on a glorious day of "women's summer", as Russians call the short period of bright weather that returns in September, the villagers were mostly sitting tight inside their fairy-tale wooden houses.



Cadets from the Moscow Military Academy at a farm north of Moscow yesterday. They will collect carrots, beets and potatoes for 10 hours daily for the next month AP

The peasant market at Nikitskoye, which should have been piled high with spuds, was selling nothing more than the last of the watermelons brought up from the south by Azeri traders. At Myachkovo, women were offering the district's sweet onions and Chinese-manufactured bath towels with the face of Leonardo DiCaprio. But again there were no potatoes, so vital because they can

be stored. At Bronitsa, I spotted an old man pulling a cart with two sacks of potatoes. But they were not for sale.

"I'm sorry, my dear," said Alexei Fyodorovich, "but these are for my family. It's been a bad summer for potatoes. They ground is very wet and they are rotting. These two sacks are dry enough to keep, though. This will be our food for winter."

In the fields nearby, people

were digging up potatoes but only for themselves.

"They're our one asset and even our little crop is bad because of the weather, because we have no fertiliser," said Valentina Sergeyevna, who used to work on the Path of Lenin collective farm and now in retirement tills her own small piece of land. Her seven-year-old granddaughter, Masha, squatted in a rut, missing

school because she did not have any shoes to wear.

A month before the onset of the Russian winter, however, one of the most disturbing sights was a sea of khaki tents down by the River Nishenka (Poor Woman) just outside Denezhnikova (Money) village. Muscovites have been worrying about a possible coup since there were reports of military movements in the Moscow re-

gion. Television calmed their fears by saying that conscripts were only helping the collective farmers to bring in the potato harvest. But the soldiers I found were picking potatoes and carrots for themselves.

Believe it or not, these men were from the elite Dzerzhinsky Division of Interior Ministry troops, who would be in the front line trying to restore law and order if food riots broke

out on the streets of Moscow. "We have been given permission to root in these fields for our own stocks," said Mikhail Kravchuk, 20, who decided to stay on in the army as a contract officer after finishing his military service because there was no work for him in his native Perm. "The army is being cut back. Nobody owes a living any more. We have to look after ourselves."

Truckers to gain 48-hour week as blockades bite

LORRY AND coach drivers are to win an average 48-hour working week as part of a package of Europe-wide measures that emerged as a protest by truckers disrupted continental ports and borders yesterday.

Drafts of a deal to extend the controversial Working Time Directive to 3.5 million drivers also meets key trade-union demands by including tasks such

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels and
JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

as loading, cleaning and maintaining vehicles, and conducting safety checks, within the 48-hour limit. The drivers will gain a guaranteed minimum of four weeks' annual holiday.

News of the impending

agreement angered the Road Haulage Association, which called on the European Commission not to "cave in to the industrial action".

The biggest demonstrations were in France and, while they did not match the blockades of the past two winters, there were big tail-backs of lorries on the Spanish, Italian, Belgian and Luxembourg borders.

Cross-Channel traffic was relatively unscathed. French lorry drivers handed out leaflets in Calais but made no attempt to block the Channel Tunnel terminal or ports.

There were "filter barriers" to stop truck traffic and slow cars, at exits from the ports of Dieppe and Ostend, in Normandy; 400 trucks were reported to be queuing, or parked

in support of the day of action, on the French side of the Mont Blanc tunnel. At Bristou, on the Franco-Spanish border, a French driver prevented from driving into Spain, swung his truck across the road and a six-mile jam built before the road was cleared. Traffic on roads within France was normal.

Transport workers and junior hospital doctors have been

exempt from the 48-hour week affecting most other workers. But on 16 September employers and unions hope to agree a deal, which will be the basis of a European directive laying down conditions in EU countries. Yesterday the European Commission said that if the two sides fail to agree, it will bring forward its own proposals, along similar lines, by 30 Sep-

tember. That alarmed some British employers who claim they already face high fuel and excise costs and want new measures to stop continental truck drivers from blocking ports.

Last night the Road Haulage Association said it would "be concerned at measures which reduce further the flexibility of the industry".

IN BRIEF

UN chief sees the official China

THE UNITED NATIONS High Commissioner for Human Rights had said she wanted to meet a "wide range" of Chinese on her 10-day visit to China, but an official suggested yesterday that Mary Robinson was unlikely to see any dissidents. On the third day of her trip, Ms Robinson met members of the women's federation and the official in charge of policy towards ethnic minorities. The foreign ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said Ms Robinson would go on to meet officials, government-backed groups and academics, and travel to Tibet and Shanghai.

Congo peace talks derailed

CONGO PEACE talks attended by seven African presidents were derailed when rebels stormed out of the meeting at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, complaining they had been snubbed and mistreated. A draft of a ceasefire pact that the presidents had been expected to sign was withdrawn as the leaders bickered over treatment of the rebels.

Fourteen hurt in Macau bombs

BOMBS BLAMED on gangsters exploded yesterday in the Portuguese enclave of Macau, wounding four senior police officers and ten journalists. The two bomb blasts were the worst in recent years, and the first to involve journalists.

Nigeria frees 20 Ogoni activists

A NIGERIAN court in the city of Port Harcourt has freed 20 Ogoni activists detained since 1994 on charges of murdering four pro-government chiefs. The youths, freed on Monday, faced the same charge for which the author Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others were executed in 1995.

PAUL SPIKE

"If the Republicans reclaim the White House in 2000, I suspect Blair's 'I'm sorry' will be answered with a very cold 'Excuse me'"

—WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

Jobless blow to Kohl campaign

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

UNLESS HE wins the elections at the end of the month, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's promise to bring German unemployment below 4 million will not be realised. Yesterday was his last chance, with the publication of figures for August, and he was 95,000 over the limit.

There was, however, a fall in the last summer month, and the Chancellor saw in this the vindication of his policies. "The positive development has stabilised," he said. "I expect that in the coming month the number of unemployed will be below 4 million and in the full year we will have fewer people out of work than in 1997."

That would no doubt be hailed as a great achievement, although perhaps not as sweeping as he had anticipated. There was a point in his current term of office when Mr Kohl had promised to halve the number of jobless by the year 2000. Since then he has proceeded nearly to double it.

Kohl: Promises, promises

ahead, the number of jobless has fallen for eight months in succession in the west, and for three months in a row in the east. But some of these new jobs can all too directly be credited to the Chancellor and his election campaign. Vast sums have been pumped into make-work schemes in recent months in a frantic effort to get below the magic 4 million.

As Bernhard Jagoda, the head of the Federal Labour Office, put it: "The situation has improved slightly but the recent increase in employment in the east is attributed to the unusually strong expansion of job-creation schemes."

Judge suspended for exposing corruption

A STATE prosecutor and two senior detectives have been suspended and placed under investigation in Toulon.

Their alleged crime? To have leaked to the press details of investigations of corruption among local politicians, including officials at the National Front-controlled town hall.

Their real crime? To have challenged the cosy relationships between politicians (of left, right and far-right), organised crime and the judiciary - which have made the Toulon area a byword for intrigue and corruption.

There seems little doubt that Judge Albert Lévy, substitute chief prosecutor in Toulon, is technically guilty. He was the subject of a six-month investigation by his own colleagues - using bugging devices and concealed body microphones - to prove that he was leaking details of his cases to the press.

Leaking information on a criminal investigation is a serious offence, but one committed by nearly all publicity-conscious prosecutors and investigating judges in France. If the law was to be applied uniformly, awkward questions would have to be asked of scores

of magistrates all over the country, including those in charge of the year-old investigation of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

A book by two French journalists quotes verbatim from witness statements made to Judge Hervé Stéphan, the man in charge of the Diana inquiry. No official action was taken.

This is precisely the accusation made against Mr Lévy: the leaking of witness statements to a local journalist, Claude Ardid, of the newspaper *Nice-Matin*, who has also been placed under investigation. The investigating judge brought in from Paris to examine the evidence even accused Mr Lévy of being mentally unstable because he "saw fascists everywhere in Toulon". Mr Lévy's imagination may not be so fevered as all that: Toulon is one of five towns controlled by the far-right National Front, and has long had a reputation as one of the most racially intolerant towns in France.

The accused judge's lawyer, Alain Jakubowicz, said the case was "pure delirium". A complete injustice. Even if the facts are proven, everyone knows that witness statements circulate everywhere... This is a setting of scores.

Mr Lévy, a brisk-looking man with metal-rimmed spectacles and a neat moustache, had made several attacks on what he called the "mafia politicians" of the Toulon area. He was especially hostile to the National Front. But he also criticised the passivity of his own colleagues, especially what he called the "nonchalance" of the judicial investigation into the murder of a local MP Yann Fiat.

The National Front MP who defected to the centre-right, was shot while investigating links between politics and crime. A gang of local hoodlums was convicted of her murder this year, but it remains open to question whether gang members could have acted alone.

We're committed to no-nonsense honest labelling so you know exactly what you're buying.

To find the answer, ring freephone 0800 317 827 or visit www.co-op.co.uk



It's a family thing

Only
£295
each



498

6114
pton:
4331

ad

Amnesty condemns Israelis and Palestinians for rights abuses

Bayonet attack on Jakarta students

By ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

TORTURE AND death in custody, arbitrary arrest and detention without trial, executions and unfair trials by both Israelis and Palestinians: five years after the Oslo Agreement, could there be a more wretched indictment of the "peace" between Israel and the PLO than the report Amnesty International publishes this morning?

So rapidly are human rights being sacrificed in Israel and the West Bank - in the hopeless search for a "security" that cannot be guaranteed by policemen - that the report was too late to record the most recent atrocities: two Palestinians shot by a PLO firing squad for murder last week, and the apparent beating to death by Yasser Arafat's henchmen of Hussein Ghali, who called at a Gaza police station to make a complaint. But it is impossible to deny Amnesty's plague-on-both-the-houses catalogue of abuse - or its implications.

"In a spiral of violence," the report states, "killings of Palestinians by Israeli security services or settlers have led to suicide bombings and the deaths of Israeli civilians. These have led to waves of arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, torture and unfair trials. The Palestine population have been the main victims of such violations ... the Occupied Territories have become a land of barriers, mostly erected by Israeli security services, between town and town and village and village ..."

The protection of human rights, Amnesty concludes, must be at the heart of all future policies and accords. Some hope. As Amnesty admits, the five years since Oslo have been marked by a great increase in the number of Israeli civilians killed by armed Palestinian groups - more than 100 Israelis have died in suicide attacks, and more than 45



A pressure group in Jerusalem uses an Israeli actor to show the "shabeh" torture method reportedly used by Israeli security forces AP

Palestinian civilians have been killed by Israeli civilians, some of them members of the violent Jewish Kach movement. After handing over to the Palestinian authority detention centres in the centre of West Bank cities - where the PLO now uses the same tortures against its own civilians that the Israelis used before the withdrawal - Israel has now built new prisons in West Bank areas still under occupation, at Beit El Majnuna and Dotan.

Methods of torture by the Israelis include shabeh (sleep

deprivation while shackled in painful positions and hooding), gambaz (being forced to squat for more than two hours), silbul (violent shaking that has already killed one Palestinian prisoner) and khazana (imprisonment in a closet). Other methods, according to Amnesty, include beatings, pressure on genitals and exposure to heat and cold.

"There is general acceptance by the international community that Israel has effectively legalised the use of torture."

Torture by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority includes beatings, suspension from the wrists, burning with electricity and cigarettes as well as tortures learnt from the Israelis - shabeh and exposure. The report says that 19 have died in Palestinian custody since Oslo - 20 if the weekend's killing is included. Most of them appear to have died during or after torture. "Security" detainees, suspected collaborators and those who have sold land to Jews appear to be routinely tortured. Arbitrary arrests by the

Palestinian authority - monitored by a CIA Israeli team (although Amnesty does not mention this) and applauded by the US State Department - have led to grossly unfair trials; a Palestinian State Security Court has undermined civil courts, and human rights activists are now brought before the former.

Extrajudicial killings by Israel include Hani Abed, a Hamas leader suspected of killing two Israeli soldiers, who was blown up in a Gaza car bomb; Fathi Shikaki, the

Islamic Jihad leader shot dead in Malta; and Yahya Lyash, a presumed Hamas bomb maker, killed by a booby-trapped mobile telephone. Amnesty also refers to the Israeli attempt to murder a Hamas leader in Jordan by injecting his ear with poison.

Killings by Israelis include the death of Ali Jawarish, an eight-year-old boy, in 1997. Amnesty quotes an American reporter who saw Israeli troops fire at the boy during a demonstration. "I saw ... a wound on the right side of the forehead

and a lot of blood flow," he wrote. "Later the doctors at Mugassad Hospital and at Beit Jala told me that the child's brain had split out."

Two members of the Islamic Jihad, Ayman Razaina and Imad al-Araj, were shot dead by Palestinian police: Palestinians selling land to Israelis have been tortured to death. Ferid Bashtiti was found dead in Ramallah with his hands tied behind his back last year; a few days later, the body of another land dealer, Harbi Abu Sara, was found with bullet wounds in the head.

Carefully putting quotation marks around the word "terrorism" and "peace" - presumably because Israeli terrorists are never called terrorists, thus making the word both racist and anti-Arab - Amnesty appeals to the world to put an end to the torture and killings.

"The acceptance by the international community of 'peace' at any price, or of a security-led agenda involving the suppression of 'terrorism' without regard for human rights, has often encouraged violations, and the international community have a crucial role to play in achieving respect for human rights by refusing to accept these violations."

Amnesty concludes its damning report with a demand that Israelis and Palestinians should bring detainees before fair courts, end imprisonment without trial, revoke all legislation permitting torture, end judicial killings and draw up clear firearm guidelines. Foreign governments, Amnesty says, should "use their influence" to secure the implementation of these recommendations. Since no government is prepared to put pressure on Israel and since the Palestinian authority pays little heed to such appeals, it is a fair bet that Amnesty will be publishing another equally horrific report in the near future.

By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

ANTI-GOVERNMENT protesters were bayoneted early yesterday during a battle with Indonesian troops at the national parliament.

A military spokesman denied that soldiers or riot police were responsible for the bayonet attacks, but hospitals in Jakarta confirmed that two students had had emergency surgery after several hundred were evicted from the grounds of the parliament building, which they had occupied on Monday night.

It was the latest outbreak of violence in the world's fourth-biggest country, whose economy appears to be collapsing despite the support of the International Monetary Fund.

The protesters demanded the departure of the president, B J Habibie, for his failure to control rising food prices and his reluctance to sweep away the authoritarian apparatus of his predecessor, President Suharto. He resigned in May after a week-long occupation of the parliament buildings.

The students want Mr Suharto tried for allegedly embezzling billions of dollars of state funds, a charge he denied in a rare TV interview this week.

On Monday afternoon, more than a thousand students had marched on the parliament buildings and broken down the gates to the compound. About 300 remained until the early hours, chanting slogans, even after troops and riot police ordered them to disperse. The injuries appear to have been inflicted at about 1.30am when the security forces fired tear gas on to the crowd and drove them out of the grounds.

Mr Habibie warned of more turmoil unless the economic problems were quickly solved. "Social unrest will prevail," he said. "Crime will rise ... the chance of human rights abuses taking place will surely be bigger."

VOLVO

This strapping fellow, for example, costs just £19,895. It comes packed with safety features, with room to pack a maximum 50 cubic feet of luggage too. The Volvo V70. From £19,495. For more details call 0800 070 070 or visit www.volvocars.com

THE VOLVO V70 TORSLANDA
A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

50.000.000

Clinton tries to scupper Starr inquiry

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton mustered a counter-attack yesterday against the investigation that may lead to his impeachment. His lawyers are asking the prosecutor Kenneth Starr for advance sight of his report to Congress, so that they can send a response at the same time as it is submitted.

The report into Mr Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, and efforts to cover it up, could be released any day. After the Labor Day holiday signalled the beginning of the political season, the President spent yesterday on the campaign trail in Maryland, and today will visit Florida to campaign for the Democrat candidate for governor. His aides say that his trip to Russia and Ireland distracted from preparations for the report's arrival, and that now is the time to get him out in front of the public.

The Clinton administration says that it should be allowed to see the report in advance, arguing that, otherwise, it will be unable to present its own version of events. "Elemental fairness dictates that we be allowed to see any 'report' you send to the House simultaneously with its transmission," the White House lawyer David Kendall said in a letter he wrote to Mr Starr on Monday.

The tone of Mr Kendall's letter is to denigrate the very idea of a report, a word that Mr Kendall places in inverted commas throughout. Nothing in the law, he says, "authorises your office to prepare a 'report' to the House that purports to summarise and analyse evidence". Mr Kendall says that he wants a week to examine the report. The White House is said to be considering drawing up its own riposte to set out a different view of the arguments and facts in the Starr investigation. Clinton aides hope to deflect some of the criticism and give his allies on Capitol Hill some

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

ammunition of their own. The White House report might be sent with Mr Starr's document to Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, Mr Kendall suggests, who has been supervising the grand jury's work.

The report, which may come this week, is not being written by Mr Starr. The author is Stephen Bates, a lawyer and writer who has made a name for himself with books and articles on several controversial legal cases. He is said by those who know him to be unideological, middle-of-the-road and

ing today between Mr Gingrich and Richard Gephardt, the leader of the minority Democrats in the House, will try to sort out arrangements and procedures.

Henry Hyde, the Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has asked for special procedures to allow his committee to investigate the allegations. Among other things, he wants the authority to order the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives to arrest witnesses who do not co-operate with his inquiries.

The House Judiciary Committee was also meeting yesterday to examine what the Constitution means when it speaks of "high crimes and misdemeanours" as the test for impeachment.

The report will examine whether Mr Clinton lied under oath about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, encouraged her to lie, and obstructed investigations. But it is unclear whether he broke any laws, or whether breaking the law is a necessary condition of "high crime and misdemeanours". Impeachment would be decided upon only after a complex procedure. Once Mr Starr has notified Congress of his intention to send a report, the House Rules Committee will draw up a resolution authorising the Judiciary Committee to subpoena witnesses and take depositions. The Starr report would then be sent to the Judiciary Committee, and might, for a time, be limited to its members. It would determine whether to hold impeachment hearings, which could result in a recommendation of articles of impeachment against the President.

Then the full House would vote on whether to confirm the impeachment, and the President would be tried by the Senate. President Richard Nixon resigned before it became clear that he would be impeached.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.

Mr Starr's report is expected to be released in the next few days. It is expected to be a scathing indictment of the President's conduct.



Hillary Clinton talking yesterday with Seth Cauman (left) and Ben Baker as the students work on computers at John Eaton Elementary School in Washington; the First Lady's visit was to highlight the importance of school modernisation to educational success AP

Killer of girl, 7, goes to prison for life

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

A MURDER CASE that has haunted America came to an abrupt end yesterday when the defendant pleaded guilty. Jeremy Strohmeier took Sherrie Iverson, a seven-year-old girl, into the toilets of the Primadonna Casino in Las Vegas, sexually molested her and killed her when she struggled. The murder, in May 1997, shocked the country because of the age of the girl, the nature of the attack and that it could

have been committed in a public place. Police said Strohmeier confessed, saying he wanted "to experience death". He had a lot of pornography, and admitted fantasising about sex with young girls, police said. As the trial was about to get under way in Las Vegas, he changed his not-guilty plea, and admitted to the murder. It

means he will get a life sentence without the possibility of parole. He stood with his head bowed as the judge asked repeatedly whether he understood that he would never be released. He said he did. The defence had been prepared to argue in mitigation that Strohmeier was a deeply disturbed person, whose father is in prison and whose mother is in a mental hospital.

unpleasant loose ends have been left. Chief among them is the case of Strohmeier's friend David Cash, who reportedly saw the crime but did not stop it or report it. He has not been charged because Nevada has no "Good Samaritan" law, but his statements - that Strohmeier was a friend of his and a good person, and that he felt no responsibility because he did not know the girl - have

caused widespread anger. Now the trial is over, there will be strong pressure for Nevada and other states to enact Good Samaritan laws. Police investigating the killing of six people in three separate incidents in Denver on Monday arrested a teenager yesterday. "We... are wanting to find out if he knows anything about this homicide and if he does, what his participation, if anything, was," a police spokesman said.

Female pitcher strikes out in a man's world

AMERICAN
TIMES
DULUTH,
MINNESOTA

ALL IS JUST as it should be on this late summer evening at Wade Stadium in Duluth, a port city in north-eastern Minnesota on the shores of Lake Superior. The local minor league baseball team, the Duluth Dukes, is preparing to take on Thunder Bay from across the border in Ontario, Canada. Fans, with beer and hot dogs, are filling the stands and the sun casts its still-warm rays on the impossibly green infield.

Nowhere could you more easily experience the gentle rituals of the game they still call the national pastime than here. Before the first pitch, we use for the national anthems of the United States and, on this day, of Canada as well. Then, one by one, the players are introduced, to gentle ripples of applause. But then comes this: "For the Duluth Dukes, please welcome Ila Borders." And the bleachers erupt.

And so it goes for Ms Borders these days. Such is her celebrity that 60 Minutes, this country's most watched television show, has just done a segment on her. Japanese television was here two weeks ago, as were CNN and Newsweek magazine. The attention does not please her. In fact, she wishes we would all go away. But that, she knows perfectly well, is not going to happen. Because, at just 23 years old, this slim Californian with flowing ponytail is the first woman to play in men's professional baseball.



Ila Borders, who is taking on the boys as a minor league baseball pitcher AP

aged his daughter, practising with her from 6am until noon every free day he had. Slowly her dream materialised. Baseball is a boys' game, always has been, if not a good of boys' game. There was suspicion that Duluth had picked her as opening pitcher simply to raise ticket sales.

"I would say about three of the managers in the league hate my guts," she admits. With only eight teams in the league, that seems like a bad start. One of them wrote to Wadley at the start of the season to voice his disgust. "He basically said that having a girl demeaned the game and he didn't want a girl pitching to his players," Ila remembers. "But after the game he came up to me and said, 'great job'."

She has had trouble with some of the fans too, including those who have taken their adoration for her too far. Such as the woman who leaped over the fence one day and snipped a length from her ponytail. And a few have been openly hostile. Always, she says, they are women. "It has been all women. Either they say that I am in this team because I think women's sports aren't good enough or they say

that I am going to play badly and let women down." The politics of her achievement are of no interest to her, however. "I am not doing this to make a statement. I'm out here because I love the game and nothing else."

And Ila is good. While she may not throw terribly fast - she clocks about 80mph against 90mph for the guys - her left-handed balls are foxy. In mid-season she managed two no-score six-inning stretches in a row. Nobody else on the side has done that all year.

What, however, is Ila Borders' most formidable weapon? It is her femininity. Quite simply, when guys who are often twice her weight and strength face her with the bat on home plate, they panic. Jay Ward, the coach for Thunder Bay, has seen it over and over again. "It is the macho thing. They go out there terrified. They can't go back to the locker room and tell the guys that a girl struck them out. Some of them have got over that now, but others haven't. And they are the ones she gets out, every time."

DAVID USBORNE

LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

life assurance?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

£53,200 of life cover for just 20p a day

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need it? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just 20p a day (subject to individual details), the lump sum is paid should you die during the term of the policy. For that premium,

a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £53,200 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the term of the policy and the amount of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call 0500 33 66 66 or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

**Equivalent to £6.08 a month.*

Minimum premium of £5.00 per month equates to £7 a day. Full terms and conditions available on request. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick the box in the coupon. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 270280. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP

free £10 Interflora voucher

WHEN YOUR SUPER ALLOY IS ACCEPTED AND FIRST PRIZE IS PAID

0500 33 66 66

Now - Not available, Sun - Not available

TEAMS IN THE INDEPENDENT SERIES C21023

Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

Title (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of birth _____

Tel no. home _____ Tel no. work _____

Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SW60467), Cardiff CF1 1YW (no stamp required)

Further information on other Legal & General products is available on our website: www.lgandg.com

Call now for an instant quote

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and monitored.

I do not wish to receive information on other Legal & General products. ☐

trust us to deliver

Legal & General

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BRIEFING

G7 meeting likely to be postponed

THE PLANNED London meeting of G7 finance ministry officials to discuss the fall-out from the Russian crisis is likely to be postponed until Monday, according to a government official. The official said a number of countries were experiencing "logistical problems" with the proposed meeting on Saturday, called to discuss recent economic developments.

"It now looks as if the meeting will go ahead on Monday, although Saturday remains a possibility", a spokesman said. He added that a final decision will be made by today. The meeting takes place ahead of the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting in Washington next month, where Chancellor Gordon Brown (left) will play a key part in the debate over how the rich Western nations should react to the Russian crisis.



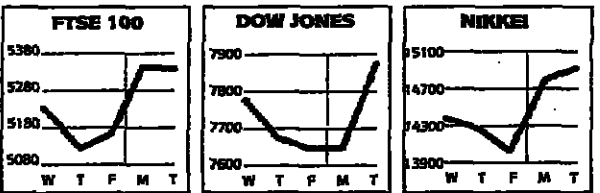
Charter shares plunge

SHARES OF Charter the engineering group plunged 13 per cent to 463.5p, yesterday after analysts sharply downgraded profit forecasts for the full year. They now forecast a drop of 5-10 per cent to less than £90m. Turnover in the six months to 30 June was up 25 per cent in the six months to 30 June, and profits from the core welding and railtrack businesses were up 5 per cent. But net interest on the £378m Charter paid for Howden the air and gas engineers last year more than offset increased earnings, and pre-tax profits fell by 10 per cent to £44.7m, including a £3.2m hit from the strength of sterling. Chairman Nigel Smith remains optimistic about the second half when Howden should contribute strongly, but the company has substantial activities in Southeast Asia to support.

Diageo pays \$178m for Heinz unit

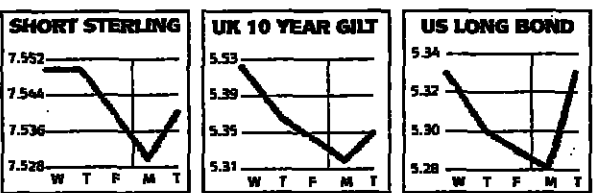
DIAGEO, the food and drinks group is paying \$178m for the bakery products division of food group H.J. Heinz. The deal is being conducted through Diageo's Pillsbury subsidiary which includes the Green Giant and Old El Paso brands. Heinz Bakery has a turnover of \$200 million and specialises in frozen unbaked bagels and frozen unbaked bread dough. Heinz yesterday reported first quarter operating income of \$215m on sales of \$2.5bn. Operating income was reduced by \$14m due to currency effects.

STOCK MARKETS



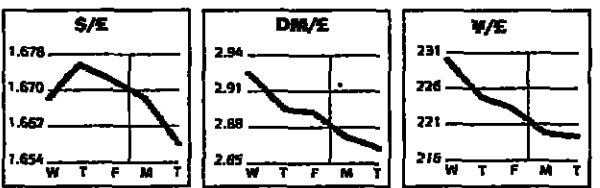
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5344.20	-2.80	-0.05	6183.70	4382.80	3.63
FTSE 250	4804.50	57.40	1.21	5970.50	4428.30	4.29
FTSE 350	2554.20	4.30	0.17	2969.10	2141.80	3.73
FTSE All Share	2475.21	5.02	0.20	2886.52	2106.59	3.76
FTSE SmallCap	2102.20	17.30	0.83	2793.80	2044.80	3.93
FTSE Fledgling	1173.30	8.10	0.70	1517.10	1140.20	4.30
FTSE AIM	881.20	-1.50	-0.17	1146.90	862.80	1.44
FTSE EBLIC 100	832.60	25.20	3.07	9367.84	6971.32	1.89
Dow Jones	7864.80	228.37	2.92	9367.84	6971.32	1.89
Nikkei	14913.49	123.43	0.84	18775.08	13664.74	1.02
Hang Seng	8189.25	112.49	1.39	15242.65	6544.79	5.01
Dax	5103.84	180.47	3.67	6217.83	3487.24	3.15

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	7.56	0.25	7.31	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	5.35	-1.59	5.05	-1.85
US	5.59	-0.13	5.47	-0.59	-0.59	-0.59	5.02	-1.30	5.33	-1.28
Japan	0.62	0.05	0.61	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	1.50	-0.92	1.88	-1.02
Germany	3.49	0.18	3.63	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	4.24	-1.43	5.06	-1.28

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago		at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6590	-1.09c	1.5833	Sterling	0.6031	+0.39p	0.6315
D-Mark	2.8638	-1.18p	2.8647	D-Mark	1.7258	+0.08p	1.8091
Yen	219.15	-0.69	191.55	Yen	132.12	+0.27	121.15
E Index	102.50	-0.50	100.10	S Index	110.30	+0.50	106.30

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.61	0.02	18.08	GDP	113.40	2.60	112.48
Gold (\$)	286.05	-2.50	321.95	RPI	163.00	8.50	157.49
Silver (\$)	5.01	-0.03	4.72	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6966	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.32
Austria (schillings)	19.56	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1400
Belgium (francs)	57.49	New Zealand (\$)	3.0941
Canada (\$)	2.4609	Norway (kroner)	12.52
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8191	Portugal (escudos)	283.00
Denmark (krone)	10.67	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0291
Finland (markka)	8.5207	Singapore (\$)	2.7224
France (francs)	9.3302	Spain (pesetas)	235.89
Germany (marks)	2.7939	South Africa (rand)	9.7750
Greece (drachma)	478.15	Sweden (krone)	12.90
Hong Kong (\$)	12.44	Switzerland (francs)	2.2881
Ireland (pounds)	1.1078	Thailand (bahts)	61.15
India (rupees)	64.74	Turkey (liras)	440641
Israel (shekels)	5.8816	USA (\$)	1.6174
Italy (lira)	2752		
Japan (yen)	214.72		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9702		
Malta (lira)	0.6167		

Rates for information purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

World markets rally as Bank ponders rates cut

THE BANK of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets today to decide the next move in UK interest rates as world markets rallied on the hope of lower rates in the US.

Wall Street opened up sharply higher as US traders, who were on holiday on Monday, digested weekend comments hinting at lower rates by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman. At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 213.66 points, or 2.8 per cent, at 7,854.91 after Mr Greenspan hinted that US interest rates could fall if the domestic economy slowed.

In London, the market saw some profit-taking after Monday's 180-point rise. The FTSE 100 closed down 2.8 points at 5344.2, although it was up as much as 52.8 points earlier in the day. Sterling continued to lose ground against the mark, closing down 1.5 pence at DM2.864, a 12-month low, despite the release of better-than-expected UK economic data.

Elsewhere in Europe, stock markets continued to rally. French stocks ended up 2.53 per cent, while in Frankfurt, the Xetra DAX closed up with gains of 3.03 per cent. In Japan the Nikkei closed up 123.43 at 14,913.49.

Despite the market gains, experts remained cautious about the longer-term outlook for stocks. James Cornish, European strategist at BT

BY LEA PATERSON

Alex Brown said: "Nobody really believes that we're at the end of this correction."

In the UK, the Office for National Statistics said industrial production grew by 0.4 per cent in July and was stable on the year, stronger figures than expected. Manufacturing output, the primary component of industrial production, was up 0.1 per cent on the month and down 0.6 per cent on the year.

Following a raft of gloomy business surveys, the market had been forecasting that manufacturing output would fall by 0.2 per cent in July.

Sterling spiked upward after the release of the data, before falling again in later trading, and economists

said the figures could harden the Bank's resolve to keep rates on hold this week. Richard Hey at ABN Amro said: "These data, combined with sterling's recent weakness, should underpin unchanged rates this week."

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee begins its two-day rate setting meeting today. An announcement will be made at midday on Thursday.

Economists were quick to point out that the better-than-expected manufacturing figures did not necessarily mean the sector was out of the woods. Jonathan Loyne at HSBC Securities said: "This is likely to prove a false dawn. Conditions in industry are set to get worse."

The fragile state of much of the UK

economy was underlined by two new surveys. The latest BDO Stoy Hayward "poll of polls" found that the British business community believed the country was "on the brink of recession".

Meanwhile, the Society of Business Economists said that one in five business economists expected there to be a recession next year.

Separately, NIESR, the research institute, said that GDP rose 0.5 per cent in the three months to July, and forecast that the rate of growth in the three months to August would also be 0.5 per cent. NIESR said: "These data suggest that the economy is now growing at, or slightly below trend, and do not indicate that a recession has started."

Analysts are putting a tentative valuation of around £275m for TerraNova and £250m for Fairview. The disposal programme could net around £600m, including £250m for the furniture business and £260m for the poultry operations.

Part of the proceeds will be used to repay debt but the remainder will be returned to shareholders in two tranches, one later this year and the rest next year, when the poultry businesses are sold. Analysts are suggesting a total cash return of about 40p-50p per share.

The details were announced as Hillsdown unveiled flat half-year operating profits of £66.6m. This disguised a sharp fall in profits at the poultry operations which have been hit by over-supply and weakening consumer demand.

Former chief executive George Greener and Ra Mackie, the former finance director, have left the group and will be entitled to one year's compensation. Bill Mackie, the head of the poultry operation, is retiring and will also be eligible for one year's salary.

Hillsdown said it had not held any further talks with Unigate since the original discussions were terminated in May. Unigate had originally offered around 217p per share before talks broke down.

Hillsdown shares closed 5p higher at 141p yesterday.



Sir David Rowland's appointment was generally welcomed in the City, although Lord Blyth had been the front runner *Kalpesh Lathigra*

NatWest's surprise chairman

NATWEST yesterday named Sir David Rowland, the former Lloyd's of London chairman, as the next chairman of the bank.

The surprise appointment of Sir David, regarded as the saviour of the Lloyd's insurance market, was well received by most City analysts. NatWest shares finished up 33p at 990p.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the current NatWest chairman, is to leave the bank in April. Although analysts had been expecting Lord Alexander to step down at next year's annual meeting of shareholders, the

BY LEA PATERSON

identity of his successor came as a surprise. Lord Blyth, the chairman of Boots and a non-executive director of the bank, had been widely tipped.

Sir David, who at 65 is three years older than Lord Alexander, said he was "delighted" at his appointment.

Lord Alexander said that Sir David had the "necessary mix" of qualities for the chairmanship. "He has a lot of experience, a clear mind and respect within the City," the out-

going chairman said.

The appointment was ratified by the board yesterday morning, NatWest said. Sir David had been the "first and unanimous" choice of the board, according to a source close to the bank.

NatWest has also invited Sir Dick Evans, the chairman of British Aerospace, to join the board as a non-executive director effective from 1 October.

The management changes were generally well received by most analysts, many of whom had been unhappy with Lord

Alexander's tenure. One said: "There are certain people who will be glad to see Lord Alexander go. He was not really on the same wavelength as we were."

Sir David's appointment was called "safe but unimaginative" by one leading analyst, while another said he thought Sir David "looked good on paper".

Others noted that the former Lloyd's of London chairman, who has been a non-executive director of the bank since April, lacked "hands-on retail experience".

Prior commitments at Boots

meant that Lord Blyth, who was widely expected to take up the reins, would have been unable to assume the chairmanship until the end of next year. Had Lord Blyth been appointed, NatWest would have had to choose between extending Lord Alexander's tenure or appointing an interim chairman.

Lord Hurd of Westwell and Sir George Quigley are to retire from the NatWest board in April, although both will continue to be employed by the bank.

Outlook, page 15

Bonfield calls for telecoms shake-up

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of British Telecom, called yesterday for traditional telecoms and broadcasting regulators to be scrapped and replaced with bodies which could police the fast-converging markets of computers, television and telephones.

In a strongly-worded speech which is bound to embarrass the government, Sir Peter Bonfield called for a radical shake-up of the current regime.

"Old-style regulation, based on the 20th century sectors of telecoms and broadcasting is simply not adequate for the 21st century's converged industry," he said.

Instead, Sir Peter put forward a blueprint in which regulators cover four new markets: consumer equipment, distribution networks, service provision across those networks, and the creation of content.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

The structure would allow regulators to police effectively emerging new technologies such as the internet, mobile telephony and digital television, where telephone traffic and broadcasting have become almost indistinguishable.

Sir Peter's proposal is a response to a consultation paper published by the European Commission. Although he was speaking about regulation across Europe, Sir Peter's comments are a thinly-veiled

criticism of Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

Earlier this year, the minister shied away from suggesting radical changes to the current regulatory regime. Instead, his department opted to leave in place the existing structure, which gives Ofcom responsibility for the telecoms industry.

Sir Peter said developing the right regulatory structure was critical to enhancing Europe's competitiveness.

"Regulation has to be tight enough to outlaw unfair competition but light enough to promote investment and innovation," he said.

Speaking at a conference on Europe's New Digital Economy, Sir Peter said this did not necessarily mean having a single European regulator. However, BT would support a "centre of best practice" within the European Commission which would provide benchmarks for national regulators.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AFTER MONDAY'S strong advance, shares could make only a brief response to New York's opening surge. After a 52.8-point gain, the FTSE 100 ended the day with a 2.8-point fall at 5,344.2.

British American Tobacco, freed from its financial operations after a demerger, were the best blue-chip performer, adding 128.5p to 466p.

Its old financial side, Allied Zurich, was more subdued, losing 30.5p to 78p. Housebuilders gained on hopes of lower interest rates.

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

SHARE prices traded close to their highs in late morning after Wall Street had its first chance to react to the weekend speech by Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, which hinted at an easing of fiscal policy.

The Dow soared more than 300 points to 7,854.91 before steadying at a near 230-point gain. Dealers said many fund managers were buying to cover short positions. The Nasdaq was up 67.56 points at 1,634.08.

TOKYO

PRICES MET strong resistance in the afternoon after the Nikkei 225 index moved above the 15,000 point mark, triggering profit-taking. Tokyo's bulls were encouraged by US hints of a possible fiscal easing, causing an initial rally until the psychological barrier was hit.

Share prices were able to hold on to positive territory to the close, supported by continued strong buying from overseas funds following the sharp gains of a day earlier. The Nikkei ended at 14,913.49, up 123.43 on the day.

HONG KONG

THE HANG Seng index closed up 112.49 points at 8,189.25 after brokers tempered initial enthusiasm. The index rose to a high of 8,331.69 before slipping back. After the recent strong rally, most fund managers decided to take profits as they do not believe the index can remain at its current level.

Traders said the market was concerned that the government may start trimming its holdings in blue-chips it bought up when the index stood at 7,900 points.

FRANKFURT

SHARE prices closed sharply higher, boosted by Wall Street's positive start. The Xetra DAX closed at 5,095.62, up 149.88 points from yesterday's close of 4,945.74. "I think Wall Street is up on the feeling that there is some catching up to do, and possibly in reaction to the slight improvements recently in South-east Asian markets," said one trader.

A Bundesbank central council member, Olaf Sievert, said that the bank had no fear of lower interest rates if the position required them.

July 2015

[illegible]

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and Financial Exports for the independent is correct, but neither endorses, represents or guarantees the contents of the information, nor do they accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any inconsistency therein.

FINANCIAL EXPORTS Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

Key
X - disclosed
Copies of the most recent management reports and scheme particulars are available from fund managers on request.

Mansell picks up struggling Lovell

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MANSSELL, the privately-owned construction group, yesterday announced plans to move on to the stock exchange through a £30m merger with its listed rival, Lovell.

The merger, which will be a reverse takeover by Mansell of its troubled competitor, will create one of the UK's biggest providers of social housing.

The companies said that council housing is set to boom following the Government's decision to allow local authorities to spend billions of pounds in capital receipts. David Beardsmore, the Mansell chief executive who will head the combined group, said the company would be "ideally placed" to capitalise on the growth in social housing.

Shares in Lovell were suspended at 12.5p yesterday pending completion of the deal. The enlarged company, with sales of £409m and an estimated market value of more than £80m, will be able to compete for council housing work throughout the UK, Mr Beardsmore said.

The chief executive, who is sitting on a paper profit of around £1.6m for his 2 per cent stake, said the deal was an almost risk-free way of ending Mansell's 66 years as a private company. The current market turmoil was making it hard to persuade institutions to invest in companies coming to market. "If we had to float independently we would not have got a market capitalisation as big as the one we would get with Lovell."

Under the terms of the reverse takeover, Mansell, a Surrey-based contractor specialising in refurbishment and maintenance, will have 78 per cent of the new entity. The company, which had sales of £183m and profits of £4.7m last year, is controlled by the descendants of the founding family. Venture capital group 3i has a 17 per cent stake.

Mr Beardsmore said there was "no indication" that existing shareholders would sell on completion. Sir John Wickerson, Mansell's chairman, takes

the post in the new group. David Heppell, Lovell's chief executive, will become an executive director.

The deal is a lifeline for Lovell, which has been hit hard by the recent economic slowdown. Analysts said the company had suffered from a number of ill-judged property deals in the late 1980s which plunged it into debt. A new management team, led by Mr Heppell and backed by a Swedish investment fund, took over three years ago and refocused the group on its core construction business. Last year the company posted a £1.54m loss, compared with a loss of £11.7m in 1996.

Meanwhile, Taylor Woodrow, the construction and property group, yesterday posted a 32.5 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £48m on turnover of £668m. Colin Parsons, the chief executive, said the recent sell-off in housebuilding shares had been overdone. "I think [the market] has overreacted, and we will see that as the results of other housebuilders start coming through."



Stephen Rubin, chairman of Pentland

Peter Macdiarmid

Pentland takes £30m US charge

PENTLAND, the Speedo and Kickers leisurewear group, is to take a £30m charge to cover the costs of restructuring its American business.

Pentland is planning to sell or close its US fashion footwear operation, which is losing money and suffered a near-£10m cash outflow last year. The division designs and distributes fashion footwear to department stores in America, but is now seen as a non-core business by Pentland.

The company will concentrate instead on its core portfolio of brands such as Ellesse, Berghaus and Mitre, as well as Speedo and Kickers. "We are taking this action because the division has not performed to our expectations," said Andy Rubin, the Pentland chief executive. The decision was taken after a strategic review. A cost cutting programme will be implemented.

Pentland confirmed plans to quit the replica football kit market, which has been declining. Its Pony brand sponsors the kits of Premiership football clubs Tottenham Hotspur, Southampton and West Ham.

These contracts will be honoured but will not be renewed as a result of increased losses at Pony UK.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Other clubs affected include Norwich, Oldham and Huddersfield.

The news came as Pentland announced a 20 per cent rise in first-half pre-exceptional profits to £17.4m. There was a £2.9m charge to cover the costs of making the group's computer systems year 2000 compliant. Trading in the first half was difficult in the UK and Asia, the company said. It is also cautious on prospects for the second half.

Among Pentland's main brands, Speedo was hit by soft demand in Asia and the strong pound. Ellesse made progress in the UK and Europe but also experienced a Far East impact. Kickers footwear was affected by stock run-downs by retailers which had over-ordered.

Pentland has net cash of £136m and is looking for acquisitions, although it is not currently in talks.

Group first-half sales fell from £316m to £252m as a result of disposals. The interim dividend was 1.54p per share against 1.47p last time. The shares closed down 0.5p at 79p.

Norwich role is predator, not a target

BY ANDREW VERITY

NORWICH UNION, one of the UK's biggest insurers, sought to remove itself from the shopping lists of Britain's retail banks yesterday when it classed itself as "a predator, not a target."

There had been persistent market rumours of a takeover by a large retail bank wanting to expand sales of life insurance and pensions. Speculation had focused on the Halifax and NatWest Bank.

Richard Harvey, chief executive, said Norwich Union's corporate strategy was to be "a consolidator" - rather than consolidated.

"If there was any doubt about it, I want to make the point that in terms of Norwich Union acquiring others, our team has been active in investigating opportunities both here and abroad."

"We have not completed a deal of a meaningful size because we concluded we would not be prepared to pay the prices offered," he said. Recent corrections, however, had "taken some of the froth out of the market."

Norwich Union unveiled a bumper set of results yesterday for the first half of the

year. Operating earnings before tax, the key measure for insurers, leapt 21 per cent to £348m, at the top of analysts' expectations.

Much of the rise stemmed from a robust market for life and pensions. Sales jumped 18 per cent last year after a slow first half, when Norwich Union was completing its transition from mutual insurer to listed company.

The general insurance arm was hard hit by poor weather in the first half, such as January storms and April floods costing £13m.

Norwich Union, never the less, was far less exposed than other insurers, such as GRE or Royal & Sun Alliance.

In March, Norwich Union sold its New Zealand life and savings wing for £54m to Royal & Sun Alliance and bought St Paul's International, a small general insurer.

Norwich Union shares rose 6 per cent to 449.5p yesterday.

Shares in Prudential and Legal & General also rose by nearly 2 per cent each.

Iceland profits rise to £23m

BY NIGEL COPE

ICELAND, the frozen-food retailer, continued its recovery yesterday when it announced healthy sales gains boosted by its home-delivery scheme and disclosed plans to extend the trial of its convenience store format.

Announcing a 32 per cent jump in half-year pre-tax profits to £23.6m, Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chairman and chief executive, said the home-delivery initiative had contributed to a 14 per cent increase in like-for-like food sales in Iceland's stores during the first half.

Current trading is also strong with same-store sales 10 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

Iceland's trial of six Iceland Extra stores, which operate a convenience store concept with an extended product range, has worked well. Sales in the converted stores were 40 per cent ahead on a comparable basis, though so far the extra sales have had only minimal impact on the bottom line.

Iceland's home-shopping service, where customers order from home, will be available nationwide by the end of October.

Board changes announced yesterday see Russell Ford promoted to trading director. He and Andrew Pritchard, finance director, will become joint managing directors of Iceland Foods.

P&O on the takeover trail

THE P&O chairman, Lord Sterling, said yesterday he believed that the current economic difficulties could provide expansion opportunities for the group.

Speaking after announcing a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £138m at the halfway stage, Lord Sterling said the recent problems would open up a wealth of takeover opportunities at attractive prices although he insisted there were no specific deals in the pipeline.

"It is worth remembering that it is times like these that create opportunities," he said. City reaction to the figures was broadly positive. The shares rose 2p to 887p.

Recent focus has been on consolidation with the merger of the cross-Channel ferry operations with those of Swedish rival Stena becoming effective in March of this year. Lord Sterling said a large part of the cost savings from the merger had been achieved.

The joint venture is split 60 per cent in P&O's favour. The group has also merged its container operations with Nedlloyd of Holland. The joint ventures reported half-year results last month.

Profits at Bovis, the construction arm, were up 40 per cent. The P&O chairman dismissed reports that the group was looking at a sale.

Lord Sterling said: "I would be surprised if it is not part of the P&O group next year."

Norwich Union plc Interim Statement

The interim statement for the first half of 1998 reflects sound progress in challenging markets. Resources freed up following the flotation, is well placed. We are confident that they hold great potential for us. Good value products and excellent customer service through very positive about the future. Careful management of risk brand and the further growth of good businesses in earnings for the benefit of our shareholders.

Richard Harvey, Group Chief Executive

	Unaudited 26 weeks to 30.06.98 £m	Pro forma Unaudited 26 weeks to 30.06.97 £m	Pro forma Audited 52 weeks to 30.06.97 £m
Gross premium income			
Long term business			
General business			
Total gross premiums			
Operating earnings			
Balance transferred from long term business technical account			
Balance transferred from general business technical account			
Shareholders' investment income (net)			
Other			
Operating earnings before taxation			
Realised/Unrealised investment gains			
Profit on sales of subsidiary undertakings			
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation			
Tax on profit on ordinary activities			
Minority interests			
Profit attributable to shareholders			
Dividend			
Retained profit for the period			
Earnings per share			
Earnings per ordinary share			
Operating earnings per ordinary share			
Dividend per share			

- UK Life & Pensions - Technical result of £255 million (15 June 1997: £213 million). New life, pensions and investment business growth of 18% for the half year to £129 million annual premium equivalent (30 June 1997: £109 million). Voted Money Marketing Company of the Year by IFAs in 1997 and 1998.
- UK General Insurance - commendable technical result of £28 million (15 June 1997: £37 million) in the light of the Easter floods which cost the Group £13 million.
- International business - another buoyant performance despite operating in some difficult markets and the effect of strong sterling. A technical result of £46 million for the half year to 30 June 1998 (15 June 1997: £41 million).
- Funds under management up to £53.7 billion (end 1997: £49.2 billion).
- Life embedded value £4.4 billion (end 1997: £4.0 billion) and shareholders' net assets £5.5 billion (end 1997: £5.1 billion).
- Our Life and Fund Management operations in New Zealand, and Maritime Insurance Company Limited, a specialist marine insurer, were sold during the period, realising gains of £32 million.

This advertisement contains only a summary of the interim report. To receive a copy of the full report, please complete and return the coupon.

Name
Address
Postcode
Please return to: Norwich Union plc Shareholder Information Office PO Box 6, Surrey House Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3UZ

RISES	
--------------	--

[illegible]

110 www.bloomberg.com/uk

ratio is the shareprice

SHARE - TEL. 0951 - 201 200

photo facility, please call the Help Desk on 0171-729-

at 50p per minute

... ..

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

SPORT

Cricket: A British institution will call stumps for the last time this weekend, and there won't be a dry eye in the house



Dickie Bird relaxes in the study of his Barnsley home yesterday surrounded by the mementoes of his years in cricket. He will be hanging up his trade-mark white cap for the last time on Sunday

David Ashdown

Bird's finger of destiny moves on

BY JON CULLEY

IT HAS been an emotional summer for Harold Dennis Bird. Having turned 65 in April, he is compelled, after 28 white-coated years, to hang up his trademark white cap and step down from the rota of first-class umpires. Every match, usually his last appearance at one ground or another, has had a sense of finality.

His home near Barnsley has filled up with mementoes, new ones every week, and he has shed a few tears before moving on to the next show of appreciation and affection. Today, however, the journey reaches its end.

The meeting of Yorkshire and Warwickshire at Headingley is Dickie Bird's final swansong. He will stand in the Championship match between the sides and bow out for good by officiating in the AXA League fixture between the same teams on Sunday. He does not expect to remain dry-eyed.

"I feel very sad, very emotional, but the laws of cricket say an umpire must retire at 65, so there's nothing you can do about it," he said. "But it will leave a big hole in my life. I've known nothing else but cricket. I've been married to the game, really."

"I started at Headingley 50 years ago, as a 15-year-old turning up to practice. It's nice that I'm finishing at Headingley, too, because I do have some happy memories of the place."

Then again, he has happy memories of almost every corner of the cricketing world, having achieved

the distinction, probably unique, of winning the respect of players and his peers in all the nations where the game is played. Viv Richards called him "the best Test umpire I ever saw", and there are few higher compliments.

"Wherever I go in the world, there are always friends, always invitations to dinner," he said, before reeling off a *Who's Who* of the game's most celebrated names. "I like to think it is because I gained people's respect."

"I shall miss that part of it most of all, the comradeship and friendship with players and with my fellow umpires."

Few were more consistent – and consistently right – in decision-making than Bird. But he managed also to be a character, an entertainer, a figure of fun sometimes, almost to the extent that no match he stood in could be regarded as complete without some incident to provoke the repertoire of agitated twitches and gesticulations for which he was known and loved.

Crowds would almost want there to be a spectator in front of the sight screen, some unruly pigeons encroaching on to the wicket, or the reflected sun causing unwanted dazzle, just so they could see Dickie in a flap. In time, he acquired such

a catalogue of bizarre happenings that his fund of after-dinner stories will never grow stale.

He feels humble but proud at the same time. "I'm very grateful to the British public, to the cricket public everywhere, really, for giving me such wonderful support. They have been fantastic to me."

In 1986 he was awarded the MBE, which he values as his most treasured possession, even ahead of his three World Cup medals.

Bird stood in 66 Test matches and 92 one-day internationals, both record numbers. Among them are countless indelible memories. For a man so steeped in cricket's past,

however, his view of the present is entirely positive, even approving.

"I don't think there is a lot wrong with the game," he said. "The system in England, I think, is just about right now, if we leave it as it is. Four-day cricket is the right format for the Championship, although we must play on good pitches. There are too many matches that end in two or three days, which is not fair to the members and no good for the game."

"You have to prepare the best possible surface so that spin bowlers come into the game on the last day. And the electronic aids have been a boon, as well as making un-

piring easier, although I would not introduce any more. Using fixed-position cameras is fine for run-outs, stumpings, close catches, but I don't think you can use them for lbws or bat-pad because you can't be 100 per cent sure from a television picture."

He does not even share the common despair over England's future in the international pecking order. "We'll produce good players again," he said. "I believe these things come in cycles. There are a lot of good young players coming through and as long as we don't over-coach them, as long as we don't coach out their natural game, in three or four

years England could well have a very successful team."

And if they do not, he intends to be around to stand corrected. Much as he loves the 17th century cottage in Staincross in which he has made his home – "John Wesley once slept there, you know, in my room!" – he cannot see himself spending too much time there, alone with his memories.

"I have good health – and I hope that I do – I'll go all around the world watching cricket. I've known nothing else all my life; always lived out of a suitcase since I was 19. That's why I never married, because it would not have been fair to a woman to subject her to that kind of life."

There will be tears on Sunday, inevitably, although it will be a while, he says, before the full impact of retirement brings itself to bear. "From now until Christmas, I'm really busy. My book is coming out in paperback and I'll be going all round the country, doing signing sessions. And there is a video, too, about my Test matches."

"Then in January I've been invited to Australia, to watch the Ashes series."

"But I know it will be April when it hits me hard, when it is time to get everything organised for the new season and I'll not be going off. That will be the most difficult time."

Nonetheless, he accepts the change in his life without bitterness.

"I'm a big Christian; I go to church regularly and I have a strong faith. I know I have been lucky. The good Lord gave me a gift and I hope I have not let him down."



IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO DICKIE BIRD

1970 Spotted by a policeman scaling a wall at The Oval after arriving at 6.30am for his first umpiring assignment.

1973 England v West Indies, Lord's. Trapped on field after stands are evacuated during a bomb scare, taking refuge sitting on top of the pitch cover.

1980 England v Australia, Centenary Test, Lord's. Bird is harrassed by abusive MCC members who are angry at the delayed start to the third day's play.

1987 England v Pakistan, Old Trafford. Has to be replaced by Jack Birkenshaw

after a throw by Saleem Malik hits him on the knee.

1988 England v West Indies, Headingley. Forced to suspend play when water begins to come up through the ground from a blocked drain.

1990 England v New Zealand, Trent Bridge. Persuaded by Allan Lamb, who is baring, to look after his mobile phone, which rings in Bird's pocket in the middle of an over. The caller is Ian Botham.

1995 England v West Indies, Old Trafford. Suspends play because of dizziness from a hospitality box.

Lancashire secure magic of Muralitharan

LANCASHIRE HAVE confirmed the signing of Muralitharan, the Sri Lankan off-spinner, as their overseas player for next season. The 27-year-old bowler replaces Wasim Akram, the Pakistan all-rounder, who has been at the club since 1987 and has led them to both the NatWest Trophy and the AXA League title this season.

Muralitharan, who was pursued by two other counties, including Kent, has signed a one-season contract and will report to Old Trafford when Sri Lanka's World Cup commitments come to an end next summer. He will only be available to play half of Lancashire's Championship matches and two thirds of their one-day games and could be called away again at the end of the season

for Sri Lanka's home Test series against Australia.

Wasim, meanwhile, has announced himself open to offers from other counties after Lancashire's decision: "If someone wanted to sign me for next year and the year 2000 then that would be great, but I don't want to hang around playing after that," he said. "I've had some fantastic times with Lancashire and I'm going to miss the place so much, the club, the dressing-room and being part of it all. I don't think I've got a single bad memory of my time here."

"I wanted to stay but they decided on Murali, which is fine by me, and if we can win our third trophy at the end of the season then that would be a dream come true."

"Muralitharan is one of the best

off-spinners in the world and there is no doubt he's a match-winner. I think he will fit in well in the Lancashire dressing-room because he's very bubbly and he's always laughing," Wasim said.

Muralitharan produced one of the great performances in Test history earlier this month by claiming 16 wickets for 220 runs, the fifth-best figures of all time, to help Sri Lanka complete an emphatic 10-wicket victory over England at The Oval. He has taken 68 wickets in eight Tests this year – more than any other player.

Leicestershire's hopes of winning a second County Championship title in three years are being threatened by an injury to Alan Mullally, their last left-arm bowler – and the

unpredictable English weather. Mullally, who will tour Australia this winter with England, could miss his side's penultimate game against bottom of the table Essex at Grace Road today with a calf strain. He will have a fitness test this morning before a decision is made. James Ormond is standing by.

Essex, champions in 1996, lead Surrey – who they face at The Oval in the final game of the season next week – by five points, with treble-chasing Lancashire three points back in third.

Rain and high winds are expected in the Leicester area over the next four days and the Leicestershire manager, Jack Birkenshaw, said: "It's becoming an exciting finish to the season but because of

the weather forecast, things are very much in the lap of the Gods. Hopefully, we'll get a fortnight's decent weather for everyone and may the best team win."

"It's in our hands now and we've got to play like we can. Essex have got some useful players and they'll be looking to redeem themselves after losing the Sunday League. They certainly won't roll over."

At the Riverside, Durham take on Surrey with the 26-year-old Martin Suggs given his first appearance of the season. He takes over from Marc Symington, who made his Championship debut against Derbyshire, while Steve Harrison returns in place of Neil Killeen, who suffered a knee injury against Glamorgan on Sunday.

Gloucestershire are expected to keep faith with the side that defeated Northamptonshire inside two days as they aim to keep their faint Championship title hopes alive against Middlesex at Lord's today. The Bristol club are in fourth place, 21 points behind Leicestershire, and their attack will be spearheaded by Courtney Walsh, who has 89 first-class wickets and is looking to take 100 in a season for the second time.

Yorkshire's Darren Gough will again be on the injured list as Dickie Bird umpires in his final first-class match when Warwickshire visit Headingley. Brian Lara, the visiting captain, is out of the game with an injured left knee, and is replaced by Trevor Penney.



Muralitharan: One-season deal

■ Shane Warne, the Australian leg-spinner, hopes to be fit for the first Ashes Test against England in late November. He said the progression of his reconstructed shoulder was ahead of schedule.

JAVICO 150

Basketball: New Manchester coach is burdened with expectation while champions Leopards are ready to start afresh

Nurse must breathe life into Giants

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

BILLY MIMS is the coach with nothing to lose and Nick Nurse the coach who dare not lose. Neither American, though, is inclined to totally agree with the popular view of their prospects for the Budweiser League season, which begins on Saturday.

Mims opens Greater London Leopards' defence of the league championship with a squad so massively rebuilt over the summer that he can hardly be burdened with the expectation of winning a third successive title.

Only Robert Youngblood returns from his key players, but Mims said: "The popular outlook might be that we have nothing to lose, but we have the league championship and we don't intend losing that."

"Robert hasn't come back here for a fifth season with any other objective than winning a third title."

Nurse, the former Birmingham Bullets coach, has the formidable task of improving on a season of underachievement at Manchester Giants and producing results worthy of the magnificent 18,000-seat Nynex Arena, one of the largest arenas in Europe.

The 51-year-old has recruited an intimidating offensive line-up, including Makeeba Perry and John White from Leopards, Tony Dorsey from Birmingham and Tony Holley from Thames Valley Tigers.

Last season, under Jim Brandon, Giants scraped into the play off quarter-finals with virtually the last shot of the regular season, but Nurse is not weighed down by expectations of transforming the club instantly into league winners.

"I'd rather be the favourites than a 100-1 long shot," said the man from Iowa. "With names

like Dorsey, Holley and White on our roster I understand why people make us favourites, but it's going to be a long, hard season in a tough league."

While Nurse is putting his faith in players who already have pages of league stats to their names, Mims is turning the clock back to his first championship team, with a largely unknown line-up.

Imagine Arsène Wenger planning Arsenal's defence of the Premiership after offloading Marc Overmars, Dennis Bergkamp, Nicolas Anelka, and Patrick Vieira. Four of Leopards' five starters have left - Perry, White, Eric Burks and Ryan Cuff - plus Michael Debe and Jason Crump.

Mims said: "Perry, White and Burks wanted to earn more elsewhere and that's fine. We run on a tight budget and weren't getting into any bidding war."

"Arsène Wenger says a successful team turns small names into big names and that's what we did with White and Burks. They were unknowns when we brought them to this country and Leopards turned them into big names."

"Last season we became the first Budweiser team to win back-to-back titles, but we still underachieved. We've kept the

players who are hungry for more success. Robert Youngblood and Brian Moore, but we have no superstars and a bunch of new players hungry to prove themselves."

Apart from a new quartet of Americans, Mims has made key English signings. The muscular and aggressive David Attewell, 6ft 6inches, and Stedroy Baker joined from Derby, plus a potential recruit for the national team to make the England coach Laszlo Nemeth's nerves tingle with expectation.

Ben Baum is a 6ft 11in, 23-year-old born in Lakenheath, Suffolk, whose American education took him to two of the most powerful basketball schools, Oklahoma State and the University of New Mexico. He started in all six of Leopards' pre-season games. Mims said: "This is the deepest team I've ever had."

Giants may not match the Leopards' depth, but they have an offensive line-up to make opponents quake. Dorsey (26.1 points per game) and White (24.8) were first and third in the scoring charts last season, while Perry (11.8 rebounds) and Holley (11.7) were the top two in the rebound stats.

But with Holley also averages more than 21 points per game, will Nurse's three big guns see enough of the ball to stop their shooting hands twitching from under-use?

Nurse said: "I don't see a problem in keeping three big scorers happy and most teams have a three-pronged offense."

Nurse is equally aware of the need to keep the crowd happy. "This arena needs and deserves a good team. It was disappointing and embarrassing last season that they produced so poorly out on the floor."



Robert Youngblood shows the shooting skills that Greater London Leopards are hoping will guide them to a third league title this season
Andy Shaw

HOW THE TEAMS MEASURE UP

GREATER LONDON LEOPARDS

Last season's league champions in name only as the captain, Robert Youngblood, leads virtually a new team. Billy Mims unearths 6ft 11in Englishman Ben Baum at University of New Mexico, as well as signing David Attewell and Stedroy Baker from Derby and four new Americans - Bryan Williams, David Kruse, Paul Burke and Royce Olney.

BIRMINGHAM BULLETS

The play-off champions are expected to confirm a business merger this week with Nottingham Panthers ice hockey club. The Americans Mark Robinson and Anthony Harris replace Tony Dorsey (Manchester) and H L Coleman, while 6ft 10ins Neville Austin comes in for 6ft 11ins Chris Haslam (Greece).

NEWCASTLE EAGLES

Craig Lynch has seven returnees, plus Ralph Blalock (a 96/97 Eagle) and Corey Jackson, from Chester. Peter Scantlebury, who already holds the league record for most successful shots (3,245) will set the record for most appearances (467) in Eagles' opener against Leopards on Saturday.

SHEFFIELD SHARKS

League Trophy holders: John Amaechi has moved on and the coach, Chris Finch, brings back impressive duo Todd Cauthorn and Wilbur Johnson, plus Terrell Myers, whose three-pointers won the trophy. Travis Conlan will be an eye-catcher at Point, plus Italian-born Matt Gaudio.

THAMES VALLEY TIGERS

National Cup holders; coach Paul James loses Tony Holley to Manchester after five years as a Tiger, but brings back Casey Arena, Jason Siemon, John McCord and adds American Steward Clark, Portuguese Francisco Miccolino and England's Bryan Balser (Derby).

LONDON TOWERS

Merged with Crystal Palace; Italian coach Lino Frattini replaces Kevin Cadle (Sky TV) and has England international Martin Henlan back after two years in Greece, alongside returning Danny Lewis and new Americans Dwayne Morton and Malcolm Leak (both with NBA experience). Eric Kubel and Ray Schultz (Watford).

DERBY STORM

The new coach Bob Donewald (Leicester) joins Storm after losing David Attewell and Stedroy Baker (Leopards), Balser (Tigers) and Ted Berry and Brendon Graves (Edinburgh). American DJ Bosse sent home after suffering double jaw fracture in practice. They have new Americans in Rico Alderson, former Rio Grande Reclaiming and John Tresvant.

MANCHESTER GIANTS

The former Birmingham coach, Nick Nurse, has assembled the pre-season title favourites, signing Tony Dorsey (Birmingham), Tony Holley (Thames Valley), Makeeba Perry and John White (Leopards) and American Porter Roberts.

LEICESTER CITY RIDERS

Former player and assistant coach Dave Harris replaces Donewald and brings back Americans Billy Singleton, Gene Waldron, Jarlon Boone, plus new US Player Eric Moore.

CHESTER JETS

Robbie Peers inherits coaching role from Mike Burton and has Canadian backcourt pairing of Titus Channer and Andrew Mavis, plus American Greg Meldrum and the ex-England centre Jason Crump (Leopards).

MILTON KEYNES LIONS

Tough assignment for rookie coach Andre Alleyne in franchise uprooted to Buckinghamshire after finishing bottom of the league for the past three seasons in Watford and Hemel. Signed Americans Michael Brown and Broderick Bob and Angolan international David Dias.

EDINBURGH ROCKS

New franchise under the former Manchester coach, Jim Brandon. Their pre-season was hampered by injuries to Brendon Graves (Derby) and Marek Powlak and they signed Ted Berry (Derby), naturalised Icelandic Jonathan Bow, Americans Brad Wedel (Towers) and Dameron Page (Tigers). Teams listed in order they finished last season.

Doubt over Dallaglio's role

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

THE LAST time Lawrence Dallaglio played a game of rugby, it was in front of a 60,000 plus cup final audience at Twickenham. His likely return for Wasps against Swansea this weekend will generate rather less interest at the turnstiles - a good 90 per cent less, in fact - but last season's England captain still wields enough clout to ensure the presence of a national selector at Loftus Road.

Dallaglio has fully recovered from the shoulder condition that denied him the opportunity, if that is the right word, to tour all three southern hemisphere superpowers during the summer. Indeed, he

will be in more discomfort from burning ear syndrome following the sharp criticism aimed in his direction by Clive Woodward, the England coach, who was flabbergasted by the versatile flanker's decision to play through his injury in a futile attempt to earn some silverware for his under-achieving club.

There is not a chance of a fit Dallaglio being omitted from Woodward's first-choice side, even though Ben Clarke's resurgent form and Richard Hill's return from back surgery has confused the back row selection. However, Dallaglio's grip on the captaincy depends on his hitting the ground running over the next three weeks.

Two other international Wasps, the stand-off Alex King and the second row Simon

Shaw, are also expected to turn out in Sunday's "rebel" cross-border fixture after joining Dallaglio among the unavailables for last weekend's Premiership opener at Bath. King, who toured with England in a half-fit state, underwent his umpteenth knee operation in July, while Shaw, who missed the trip Down Under through back trouble, is also under consideration.

No one at Wasps is anticipating a sell-out on Sunday; the Londoners played a rather more meaningful Heineken Cup match against the same opposition last season and scarcely managed to fill one of Loftus Road's bars. But this weekend's other Anglo-Welsh encounter between Cardiff and Saracens at the Arms Park is on course to attract a 10,000 gate. "The tele-

phone hasn't stopped ringing since the weekend, when our victory at Bedford obviously made a few people sit up and take notice," Gareth Davies, Cardiff's chief executive, said.

The Welshmen are poised to re-sign one of their favourite sons, the former international full-back, Mike Rayer, from Bedford before the end of the week. Rayer is a free agent after a prolonged contractual dispute.

There are no such squabbles over the transfer-listed Alex Codrington's contract with Richmond. The England Under-21 cap has been rather too vocal on the subject of his selection, or lack of it, for the liking of his coach, John Kingston, who said yesterday: "Any player not totally positive and committed to Richmond will be moved on."

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Hodde off pace

Sir: Ken Jones ("Pouting Ince lets the side down", 7 September) qualifies his assertion that Glenn Hodde "cannot be held to account" for Ince's stupidity and Beckham's petulance in being sent off by saying that "it is the coach who sets the standard of behaviour".

The trouble is that Mr Hodde doesn't know what the standards are. Witness his saying at the time, and in his absurd book, that Beckham didn't deserve a red card (why wasn't he kept informed of the changing currents in the World Cup?)

It is true that Beckham's retaliation fell short of "misconduct of an extreme nature", the term David Agers uses in his refereeing book to define violent conduct, the second of seven sending-off offences. Beckham was responding to a quadruple offence by Sime-

one, the violent tackle-from-behind element also requiring, according to Agers' book, a sending-off. Certainly the two players should have received the same punishment.

Such equity, Mr Hodde should have known, would be unlikely in the World Cup. The Beckham and Ince cases suggest that imposing a code of behaviour on millionaire players is beyond the fragile Mr Hodde - come back, Sir Alf M MEADMORE London

Real thumbs down

Sir: I have seen the poll about the European Super League (31 August) in which you reported:

"In a new MORI poll, 70 per cent of British football fans say that replacing the current UEFA club competitions with a midweek European Super League would be a 'good thing'. Only 18 per cent are against." This gives

the impression that Real Football Fans like the idea of the Super League.

However, having read the description of a football fan as being "those who watch football on television at least once a month (excluding the World Cup) or who would be interested to watch matches between the top European clubs", I and many other Real Football Fans would be interested if you conducted a proper survey into people who actually attend matches.

I am sure that if you asked this question outside football grounds (that's where you find football fans) then the result would be an overwhelming thumbs down for this proposal.

I hope you are able to release the results of any proper polls of fans, which would destroy the myth that the money-men in football are trying to instil. BOB GEAR Heybridge, Essex

The high cost of two tickets

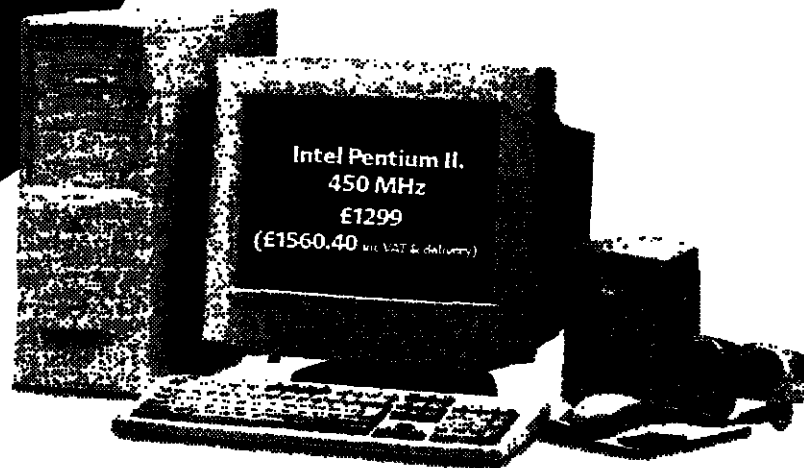
Sir: In 1972, aged 10, I attended my first day of Test cricket, the Saturday of the Lord's Test versus Australia. Bob Massie finished the match with 16 England wickets.

On Monday, 31 August, after an absence of 26 years, I attended my second day of Test cricket. Muttiah Muralitharan finished the match with 16 England wickets.

In return for a modest annual payment, I am prepared to stay away from all future England Test matches. MIKE SHEARING Exeter

PS: Readers may be relieved to know I wasn't entirely lost to cricket in the intervening years. In 1978 (Laymer v Tiffin) I got Alec Stewart out fifth ball.

Blow your mind.
Not your budget.



Our latest model is a top gun performer, at an unbelievably low price. The G6-450 is a mega-powerful internet-ready PC loaded with the latest multimedia technology. It features the new, fastest ever Intel Pentium II processor, 450 MHz, running on the high performance BX AGPset. It also includes a DVD-ROM drive and sports a huge 17" monitor.

You'll like our after sales service as much as your new PC. It's also reassuring to know that every Gateway product carries a standard warranty and a money-back guarantee. To find out more, call Gateway, today.

0800 39 2000

Gateway • Clonsilla Industrial Estate • Dublin 17 • Ireland
Gateway Showroom • 10 Bedford Street • Covent Garden • London WC2E 9HE

- G6-450**
- Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 450MHz
 - 512KB L2 Cache
 - Intel 440BX AGPset
 - 64MB 100MHz SDRAM, expandable to 768MB
 - 5GB 9.5mm Ultra ATA Hard Drive
 - 3.5" 1.44 MB Floppy Disk Drive
 - Toshiba® DVD-ROM II Drive
 - STB® MPACT 4MB AGP Graphics Accelerator W/WH MPEG2
 - Sound Blaster® Audio® PCI 64V
 - Boston Acoustics® 635 5W Speakers with 15W Sub Woofer
 - 56K Winmodem™ - Internal
 - 17" EV700 TCO-92 0.28dp Monitor™
 - ATX Tower Case
 - 105 Keyboard
 - Microsoft® Windows® 98, MS® Internet Explorer™
 - McAfee Anti-Virus Software, MS Internet Explorer 4.0
 - MS Home Essentials
 - Choice of a Gateway Software Bundle: Arcadia Source or Young Scholar
- £1299 (£1560.40 including VAT & Delivery)**

Let's talk about your Gateway
www.gateway.com/uk

©1998 Gateway 2000 Europe. All rights reserved. Gateway and the Gateway logo are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other names and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All prices subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. Many Gateway products are subject to import duties and taxes. Actual system specifications may vary from those listed. Performance may vary depending on your local conditions. Gateway and the Gateway logo are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. All other names and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All prices subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. Many Gateway products are subject to import duties and taxes. Actual system specifications may vary from those listed. Performance may vary depending on your local conditions. Gateway and the Gateway logo are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. All other names and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All prices subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. Many Gateway products are subject to import duties and taxes. Actual system specifications may vary from those listed. Performance may vary depending on your local conditions.

German machine splutters to a halt

Berti Vogts' resignation has left one of the world's football superpowers in crisis. By Imre Karacs in Bonn

VISITORS TO Germany might have been excused for thinking that a grave natural catastrophe had befallen the country on Monday night. As television stations dumped their peak-time programmes, dark-suited men filled the screens, addressing the nation in sombre tones.

The sense of crisis is palpable. After the sudden – if not entirely unexpected – resignation of Berti Vogts, the national football team is rudderless. The first qualifier in the European Championship is only a month away and the only candidate available and deemed good enough yesterday turned down the job. The captain, Oliver Bierhoff, is already fretting about "chaos".

His concern, and the anguish of his countrymen, is understandable. Other countries may hire and fire their national team managers on a whim, but Germany prefers stability and continuity. Promotion here tends to be on the strict "dead man's shoes" principle and the incumbent, as was the case with Vogts, enjoys a "lifetime contract".

Hence, the event Germans are witnessing is rare indeed. There have been fewer German national coaches this century than chancellors. Vogts was

only the sixth since 1923 and only the second to fall on his sword. And worst of all, his demise leaves no obvious successor in place.

Vogts' assistant, Rainer Bonhof, has had a lower profile than the grass at Borussia Dortmund's pitch. He announced he was applying yesterday, but clearly did not think he was in with much of a chance. "You cannot expect that the tradition, whereby the assistant on previous occasions became the coach, will be followed," he said.

The youth coaches – the other possibilities – are widely blamed for bringing German football to its current predicament: the Old Boys' team had to represent the country in France because the youngsters were not good enough. Youth trainer Uli Stielike has also conceded that he has not worked for the national outfit long enough to enter the reckoning.

Other potential bosses were busy yesterday talking themselves out of the job. Franz Beckenbauer, Vogts' predecessor, said he was totally uninterested, and no longer had "the feel for the bench". Ottmar Hitzfeld, Christoph Damm and Otto Rehhagel declared themselves handicapped to their present clubs – Bayern Munich,



Berti Vogts, seen here during his final days as German national coach, resigned on Monday in order to preserve his 'human dignity' AP

Leverkusen and Kaiserslautern respectively. No other Bundesliga coach is deemed fit for the task.

Unfortunately for German football, the one unemployed, world-class coach who might have filled the gap ruled himself out yesterday evening. Jupp Heynckes, sacked by Real Madrid at the end of last season for winning nothing but the Champions' League for the Spanish club, had come highly recommended, but decided to turn down the offer because his wife had just been taken to hospital. "She needs another operation," Heynckes explained, when asked if he was interested in coaching Germany. "I have other concerns at the moment."

Egidius Braun, the 73-year-old president of the Deutscher

Russball-Bund (DFB), spent a nervous day on the telephone canvassing suitable candidates. It would not look good if the five other men on the board deciding the appointment had to give it to the first comer, but that might be the outcome.

The reason nobody is in a hurry to take up Vogts' place on the bench can be found in the parting words of the outgoing coach. He had to leave, Vogts said, in order to preserve his "human dignity". It was a reference to the hounding he had been subjected to by the press, particularly by *Bild* Zeitung, the country's leading tabloid.

For that and other reasons, the mission ahead seems all but impossible. After last week's miserable performances against Malta – a hard-earned 2-1 win – and Romania, a lucky

1-1 draw – the team is clearly heading for disaster on its first competitive outing in Turkey. A coach must be found soon, and so acute is their need that officials have not excluded the possibility of hiring a foreigner. They have promised to make a decision by the weekend.

Whoever is picked, change is in the wind. The DFB's well-oiled machinery has been spluttering, the organisation is in disarray, and the kids are not coming through. By exacting German standards, one trophy in eight years – Euro 96 – the DFB has failed to deliver the goods.

After Vogts' resignation, the DFB must seize the opportunity and introduce professional structures, urged Willi Lemke, Werder Bremen's manager. The most important priority, many coaches are saying, is to

discover the Klinsmanns of tomorrow, if not today.

There are some people who already claim to have found them, in an environment where few have been prepared to look. Germans have been deeply impressed by the spectacle of a motley collection of Africans, South Americans and Polynesians running amok at the World Cup in the colours of France and the Netherlands. There are more than 7 million non-Germans living in Germany, their children pack the village teams all over the country, and some of them grow up to become valued Bundesliga players. Why is it, people ask, that the likes of Bayern's Mehmet Scholl cannot get into the national team? Is there, by any chance, a racial barrier operating in German football?

To some extent, Berti Vogts has himself given an answer to that sensitive question. His last-throw squad assembled for his farewell friendlies featured not one but three Germans of foreign origin. The most promising of the newcomers is Mustafa Dogan, the son of Turkish immigrants, who is plying his trade with Fenerbahce of Istanbul.

Dogan is a thoroughly German-style defender, aged 22, who is already hailed as a worthy successor to the great Jürgen Kohler. Why he has never been capped is inexplicable.

He may now get his chance in that crucial match against the country of his parents on 10 October, a match that is set to herald a new beginning for German football, and not just in respect of the manager.

Dutchman 'scared' says Beasant Clemente goes on the attack

BY MARK PIERCESON

DAVE BEASANT, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, has accused the striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk – who left the City Ground before the start of the season claiming the club lacked ambition and would be relegated – of being scared to play in the Premier League.

The Forest No 1 believes the Dutchman is frightened of playing among English football's elite. "It might be one of those things that over the summer he has been to the World Cup and thinks he is a better player than

he is," Beasant said. "I just think he might have a few doubts about his ability to perform in the Premier Division."

"He scored goals in the Premiership in Scotland. He didn't score goals when Forest went down – he played about 13 times and scored one goal. He scored a lot of goals last season and his profile and his earning potential are very high."

"He might have felt he might not score many goals with Forest this season, so his earning potential might go down."

The former Wimbledon and Southampton keeper is con-

vinced the Dutch international's behaviour has helped the side in their first season back in the Premiership. He believes that Van Hooijdonk is already regretting his decision to stay away from Nottingham.

"I think it has helped us as a team," Beasant said. "Individually there will be some people who might say 'If he was here, it might have been better'."

But on the whole, I think the players have come together and said 'Pierre has decided to take the action, we're not in agreement with it. He thinks he is better than we are, better

than the club, so let's show Pierre what we can do without him."

Nicolas Anelka has apologised to his Arsenal teammates Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp after being quoted as claiming that Overmars always passed to his Dutch colleague. Yesterday he insisted that the comments were made with his tongue firmly in cheek.

"I made a joke but it was taken out of context. I could not believe the trouble it caused," the 18-year-old Anelka said. "What I said then was that

Marc Overmars was sometimes a little too individual. Then I made a joke."

"With a smile I said that when Marc does pass, he passes more to Dennis Bergkamp than me because they are both from Holland."

Honestly, it was a joke. I was not being serious. There was no intention to upset Marc or Dennis," Anelka said.

The Frenchman has vowed to be wary of any future "jokes" in interviews and said: "The problem was that my answer was taken out of context and people are upset."

THE SPANISH coach Javier Clemente maintained his humour yesterday as everyone from supporters to politicians voiced their opinion on his future in the game.

The issue of Clemente's continued presence as national team coach has become a political football in Spain following a 3-3 defeat to Cyprus in Saturday's European Championship qualifying match.

Esperanza Aguirre, the minister for education and sports, called for the Spanish football federation to take action in the wake of a defeat she described as "unthinkable".

"I'm convinced that at this time the whole of the federation are thinking very seriously about the immense disappointment that all fans are suffering and I'm sure the federation will have to take measures," Aguirre said.

Clemente responded by telling Aguirre to mind her own business.

"I think there are much more important measures that need to be taken for the good of the country," the coach said. "It seems to me that before you

look at football there are 15 or 20 urgent measures to be taken."

"Worrying about measure number 20 and forgetting the 15 or 19 necessary for the people of our country seems to be a little exaggerated."

Nevertheless, within a short time I will tell Minister Aguirre, or the President, what measures they should take for the good of the country."

Press, pundits, politicians and the public have been falling over themselves to give their opinions about the beleaguered national coach, who has been under pressure since Spain's surprise first-round exit in the World Cup.

Clemente has been variously described as "a public enemy", "an embarrassment" and presiding over the worst team in the history of Spanish football.

But the Basque coach still has the backing of the Spanish federation and is almost certain to stay on in his job – at least until the friendly international against Russia on 23 September.

Three Belgian clubs consider merger

KORTRIJK AND Harelbeke, the Belgian First Division clubs, and Second Division side Waregem are considering a merger, Kortrijk's chairman said yesterday.

"We now have to draw up a protocol saying we're going to merge and give the timing and funding that can be generated," Jacques Laverge, the Kortrijk chairman, told local radio.

He said the newly-formed club could kick off next season although Geert Sustronck, the

Harelbeke chairman, was quoted as saying more time would be needed. Harelbeke's mayor told the radio station he was opposing a merger deal but added he was not in a position to prevent it. Harelbeke and Kortrijk are currently ranked seventh and 17th respectively in the 18-team First Division. Waregem are 15th in the Second.

Two players have been given five-game bans after being sent off in European competitions.

Alexandre Khatskevitch, of Dynamo Kiev, was suspended following his red card for butting a Spartak Prague player during the Champions' League qualifying match on 12 August. He will sit out Kiev's first five Champions' League matches.

Forat Balint, of Romania's Otelul Galati, was given his ban for gesturing at an opponent following his second yellow card in a UEFA Cup qualifying round match against Vejle BK of Denmark on 28 August. Vejle won

the tie 6-0 on aggregate and Balint's ban will carry over until his team next qualifies for European competition.

Five players were given four-match bans, although Internationales de Serbie A are appealing against Francesco Colonnese's punishment for "hitting out" in a Champions' League match against Skonto Riga of Latvia.

SV Salzburg had two players banned for four matches – Thomas Winkelhofer and

Ronald Henning. The Austrian club were knocked out of the UEFA Cup and the bans will carry over. The other players given four-match bans were Arnar, Turpeinen, of HJK Helsinki, and Samsunspor's Tuner Metin.

The Romanian goalkeeper, Valentin Bargan, was transferred from Rocolta Laza to their fourth division rivals, Steaua Buda, yesterday. The signing-on fee was 11,000 lei (£220) – and a truck-load of firewood.

Durable Elway seals victory Spain suffers from Tour legacy

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
BY MATT GATWARD

LESS THAN eight months after leading the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl victory, Terrell Davis and John Elway were at it again on Monday night as they helped the defending champions to their 11th consecutive win over the New England Patriots, 27-21.

Davis rushed for 75 yards, 82 fewer than he amassed in winning Super Bowl Most Valuable Player in January. But he ran or two touchdowns, giving him seven in four games against the Patriots.

Elway, the 36-year-old quarterback, began what may be his final season with better numbers than he posted in his first Super Bowl triumph. He completed 22 of 34 passes for 257

yards and a score, beating his 123 yards and no touchdowns in the 31-24 upset of the Green Bay Packers at San Diego in the Super Bowl.

"This was a big game against a conference team that we might end up seeing again down the road," Elway said. "We've got to take it one game at a time, just like last year. We really don't feel the pressure to repeat."

The Broncos coach, Mike Shanahan, said: "He's pretty durable. He's proven it year after year. They did get some hits on John today. Hopefully, he's not too sore and he can recover because we're faced with a short week."

Drew Bledsoe had a solid game for New England, hitting 20 of 32 passes for 239 yards and two touchdowns. "I don't want to take anything away from

the Broncos, but I felt we could have made it very interesting if we hadn't made all the mistakes," Bledsoe said. "I hope we get a chance to play them again at the end of the year."

A one-yard touchdown run by Davis gave Denver a 27-14 lead with 12 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Bledsoe replied with a 10-yard scoring strike to Vincent Brisby with two minutes to play, but the Patriots – out of timeouts by the middle of the third quarter – were unable to recover the outside kick and Denver ran out the clock.

"Denver are a tremendous football team. We needed to play a terrific game to win and we just didn't do that," Pete Carroll, the Patriots coach, admitted. "We made it too difficult on ourselves at times, whether it was a penalty or a miscue."

The Patriots began life after

Curtis Martin, their leading rusher over the previous three seasons who signed as a free agent for the New York Jets. Their starting rusher, Sedrick Shaw, managed just 25 yards on seven carries, but the rookie Robert Edwards rushed 13 times for 50 yards and a score as New England was slightly outgained on the ground, 91 yards to 81.

Their kicking fared little better as Adam Vinatieri, who missed a 39-yard field goal, also had a 37-yard attempt blocked early in the second quarter. Troy Brown kept them in the game, coming off the bench and catching five passes for 97 yards and a touchdown in an effort to ease the absence of Ben Coates, who had limped out of the second quarter with an injured ankle, but Elway steered the Broncos to victory.

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE DRUG scandals that blighted the Tour de France returned to haunt the Tour of Spain yesterday after the publication in the French media of admissions by Festina riders that they had taken banned products.

Festina, who include the reigning world champion, Laurent Brochard, and Richard Virenque, a four-times winner of the Tour de France King of the Mountains title, were thrown out of the Tour de France after their team director admitted to authorising drug-taking within the world No 1 team.

Both the French Cycling Federation (FFC) and the Swiss federation, who have three riders in Festina, are still investigating the alleged use of

performance-enhancing drugs by the team, and judicial inquiries are still under way.

But the whole affair was blown wide open once again when the French newspaper *France-Sport* published extracts of verbal submissions by Festina riders to police in Lyon in July. Lille's first deputy prosecutor, Gerald Vinsonneau, said the extracts were genuine.

Seven of the riders interviewed admitted to organised doping within the team and taking the banned substance EPO. But Virenque and Pascal Hervé still deny any doping offences, Vinsonneau stressed. EPO is employed in medicine to treat kidney disease but it can also be used to increase oxygen-carrying red blood cell levels, helping to improve endurance.

The results of the various tests of blood, hair and urine

samples will not be available until early next month, according to Vinsonneau, who added that the examining magistrate, Patrick Kell, might again interview the riders in the weeks ahead.

Vinsonneau said the goal of the inquiry into the affair was to determine the source of the doping products and how they were administered to the riders.

The *France-Sport* article enraged the Swiss rider, Alex Zülle, who recently lost a sponsorship deal in the wake of the drugs scandal and diverted attention from the performance of early Tour of Spain race leader Laurent Jalabert of Once. Jalabert and Once were also drawn into the affair by implication when Zülle revealed that EPO was also taken while he was riding with the Spanish team before he switched to Festina.

The French government yesterday created its own team to tackle the problem of drugs in sports.

The working group includes leading figures from sports medicine, law and sociology, including the presidents of the National Commission of the Order of Doctors, the French Society of Sports Doctors and the National Order of Pharmacists.

The group is to make a preliminary report in mid-October, one month before the National Assembly's second reading of a new anti-doping law, and present its final recommendations by April 1999, officials said.

The Italian rider Fabrizio Guidi won the 173.5km fourth stage of the Tour of Spain, from Malaga to Granada, yesterday. Guidi also took over the race lead from Jalabert.

Cooper keeps County in chase

NEALE COOPER might have borrowed a few lines from Alex Ferguson's book of kidology as he assessed the chances of his Ross County side causing another League Cup upset over Hearts tonight.

However the manager who presides over one of the country's only two 100 per cent records will be hoping for another phone call from his old mentor after the Highland club's visit to Tynecastle.

Ferguson was quick to offer his congratulations to one of his former Aberdeen stalwarts after County's memorable 2-0 victory over Dundee United in the last round of the competition. And now Cooper, a tough-tackling midfielder at Pittodrie in the 1980s, is ready to leave his own managerial impression as the Third Division leaders chase an improbable semi-final place.

"Tynecastle was a good ground for me when I was a player at Aberdeen and I am looking forward to going there again," he said. "It is a big game for the players and I will tell them to go out and enjoy the occasion. If we win it will be a huge boost to everyone but if we don't we can look back on a great cup run."

"Knowing Jim Jefferies [the Hearts manager], he won't allow his players to take us for granted after what we have done in the competition."

"But we are the underdogs again and the pressure is all on them. We certainly have the desire to do well and not let ourselves down."

Cooper will look to the former striker Derek Adams for further inspiration after his extra-time brace saw off Dundee United at Dingwall in the third round.

However, it may be the last time the former Burnley player turns out for the Highlanders, with a six-figure sum already offered for his services from Morton and several English clubs also keen.

Hearts' Jim Jefferies has been ensuring his Scottish Cup winners do not suffer from similar defections as they aim to sustain another challenge to the Old Firm in the coming months.

That goal received a major fillip yesterday when the new Scotland cap Neil McCann agreed to a two-year extension on his contract at Tynecastle, which was due to expire at the end of this season.

"One or two others have already done the same and it is great news for the club, because we want to keep this team together," Jefferies said.

"They can only get better and with one or two more additions to the squad there is no reason why they shouldn't do."

TODAY'S NUMBER

5,000

The weight in kilograms of dirty washing the Commonwealth Games laundry section expects to have to deal with every day.

JAVICO 1350

Williams ready to blow hot

TENNIS

By JOHN ROBERTS
at Flushing Meadows

GIVEN THE tornado at the United States Open the other day, it seemed odd that Venus Williams should be told that last year she made it to the women's singles final "in something of a whirlwind".

Having advanced to the quarter-finals after Monday's violent storm had interrupted her match against Mary Pierce, the 18-year-old American is next due to play the No 4 seed, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who eliminated Anna Kournikova, 7-6, 6-3.

It is hard to imagine that four years have flashed by since Williams made her professional debut against Sanchez-Vicario at a tournament in Oakland, California. More a rumour than a prodigy, having been sheltered from junior competition, Williams amazed the spectators by taking a 6-2, 3-0 lead against the Spaniard, who recovered to win, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0. Sanchez-Vicario also won their two subsequent matches this year, beating Williams at Sydney, 6-1, 6-3, and Rome, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

Kournikova, 17, had won her three previous contests against

Sanchez-Vicario. The Russian, who missed Wimbledon after hurting a thumb while defeating Steffi Graf at Eastbourne, is short of her best form.

Sanchez-Vicario, asked if there was a "revenge factor" to her win against one of the younger generation, said: "No, I don't think I have anything to prove. I don't take it as revenge at all. My motivation is the Grand Slams. That's where I'm looking to play well."

The 26-year-old from Barcelona added that she tries to take advantage of being considered an outsider rather than a favourite, in spite of her ranking. "There is no pressure on me at all, and I can go and play my tennis," she said, recalling how she had won the title from Steffi Graf in 1994. "I'm probably in the same situation. I was not the favourite to win in '94. I sneak around and do well. Obviously, I won in a very tough match in the final. I think I'm a better player right now than I was in '94. I have much more experience and have improved my game. I'm happy the way things are going."

Kournikova acknowledged that she needs to be sharper if she is to overcome Sanchez-Vicario in a major championship. "I didn't play the best of my life,

but she didn't make any mistakes," the No 15 said. "Hopefully, I will get good experience from this match. I think I should have attacked more and just played my game."

Always one to dash about, Sanchez-Vicario has inserted a hyphen in her name. The former world No 1 is now legally Sanchez-Vicario, having made the change to protect the rights of any children she may have.

The unmarried Sanchez-Vicario took the decision on the eve of the United States Open after a baby born within her family was only allowed to take the name of the father. The hyphen will give any child of Arantxa's the option of adding Sanchez-Vicario after the father's name.

Plain Sanchez before winning her first Grand Slam title at the French Open in 1989, Arantxa then decided to add Vicario, her mother's maiden name, emphasising that there was no

hyphen. The latest change has been received with mixed reactions. "Oh, God, it's ruined all my books," said the BBC commentator, John Barrett, who edits *ITF World of Tennis*.

Sanchez-Vicario is to receive Spain's highest award, the "Principe de Asturias", having beaten Michael Jordan by 10 votes in the sports category. She is only the third woman athlete to receive the award.

Lindsay Davenport, the No 2

seed, is trying to get used to being among the favourites. "It's not like everyone is writing, 'Lindsay is going to win,'" the 22-year-old American said as she prepared to meet the South African No 12 seed, Amanda Coetzer, in the quarter-finals. "I don't feel as much pressure here this year as, say, last year or the year before," she added. "Because people are also expecting Venus to win, among others. Mentally, I am in the best

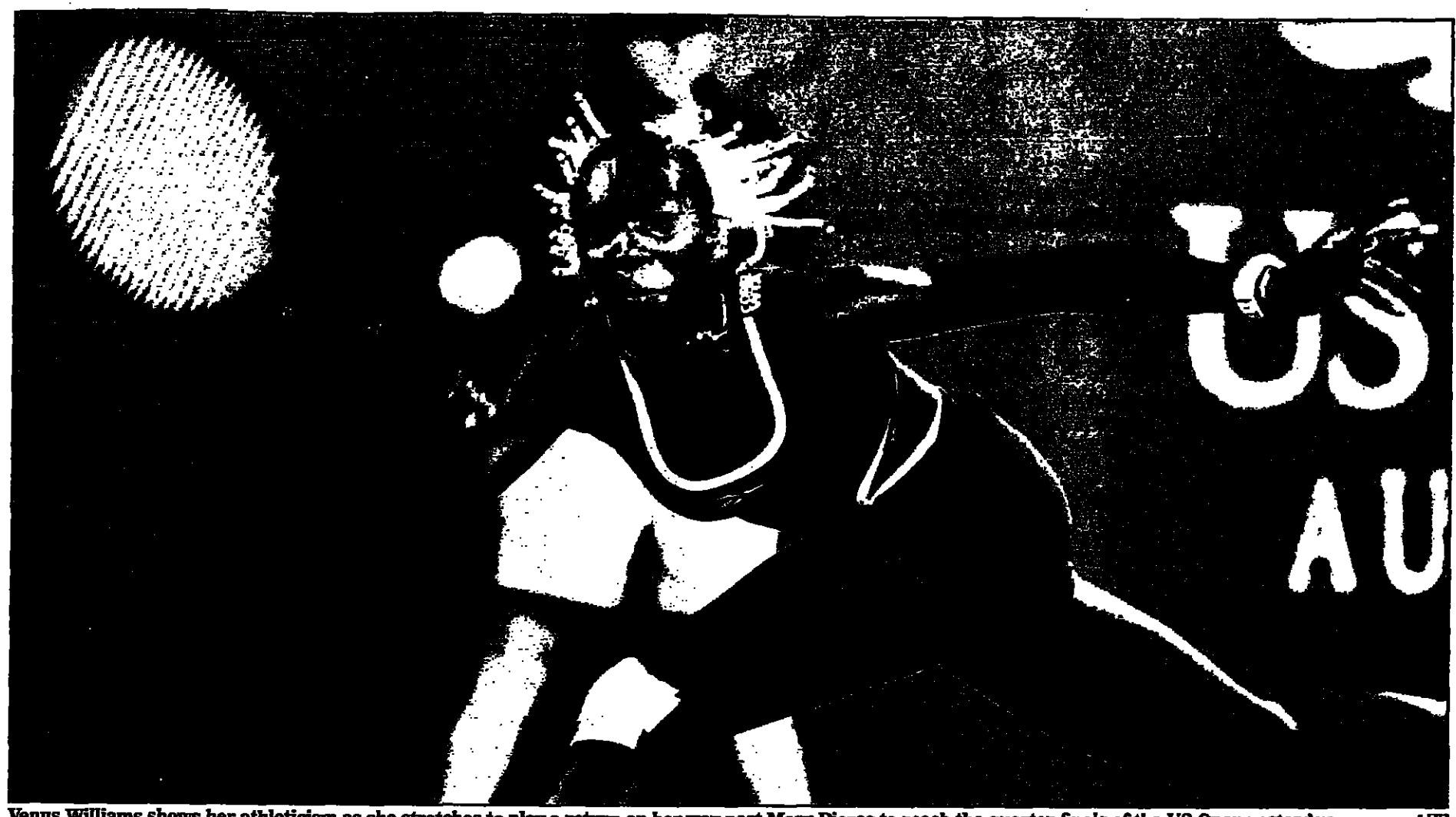
shape I have been coming into a Grand Slam."

In 1996, Davenport failed to live up to expectations at the US Open, having arrived with a gold medal from the Atlanta Olympic Games. "Over the last two years I have learned how to win on days when you are not playing so well," she said.

"If you wake up in the morning and don't want to play, you are probably going to lose. Essentially it comes down to the

player and how badly they want it. If my mom is dying for me to win a Grand Slam, it is not going to help me. I would love to win a Grand Slam, but I have always said if my career was to end I am not going to jump off a bridge."

Sweden's Thomas Johansson, who reached the fourth round due to Richard Krajicek's retirement, advanced to the quarter-finals, defeating the Russian, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 11 seed, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6.



Venus Williams shows her athleticism as she stretches to play a return on her way past Mary Pierce to reach the quarter-finals of the US Open yesterday

AFP

McManaman injury worries Liverpool Curbishley on upward curve

FOOTBALL

By PAUL WALKER

THE INJURY that wrecked Steve McManaman's England dreams threatens to derail Liverpool's unbeaten start to the season.

The Premiership leaders are waiting to discover if McManaman's Achilles injury recovers in time for him to face Coventry at Anfield tonight.

McManaman was sent home from England's pre-Sweden

training camp for further treatment on the injury that had forced him off near the end of the 4-1 slaughter at Newcastle.

If he does not make it, there could be a change from the new all-out attacking system that has been employed since Gerard Houllier joined Roy Evans at the club.

McManaman has a new, central free role and has been stunning so far this campaign. Liverpool have no-one else who can recreate that flowing style in his absence.

It is likely Jamie Redknapp

or Patrik Berger would be asked to take up a more attacking role with Jason McAteer returning to the midfield.

Evans hailed McManaman as a player who could provide England with a lift. "There is not a player like him in England. I think he's fantastic; he's certainly a great asset from our point of view," he said.

"We don't pick the England team but I see him as the perfect linkman in the international team. But that's only our opinion. We believe he is top, top quality."

It's a view not held by the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, who gave McManaman only a short spell as substitute in one World Cup squad. The view at Anfield is that McManaman could fill Paul Gascoigne's former role for England and eventually form a trio of Liverpool men in the England engine room alongside Redknapp and Paul Ince.

As for facing Coventry, Evans said: "He has done some light training, and we will wait to see what reaction there has been. It's an injury he's had for

a while and we must be sure not to overplay him and handle him carefully over a long season. Coventry have given us plenty of trouble in the past, including last season's FA Cup defeat. Their strength is their team play and spirit, and we have to overcome that."

Robbie Fowler will play in a special private practice match today as he continues his recovery from knee surgery.

The Liverpool striker made a scoring comeback in the reserves at Leicester last week but is not in the 18-man squad

to face Coventry. Evans said: "He's building up his games and sharpness, and if he comes through okay it could be that in the next week or so he will start challenging for a place in the team."

The Coventry manager, Gordon Strachan, is poised to give recent recruit Paul Hall a full debut in the game.

The £300,000 signing from Portsmouth is set to start his first game for the club in place of Noel Whelan, who is sidelined with injuries sustained in an alleged weekend brawl.

lost to Liverpool. "I will take it one step at a time and try to introduce things to the players gradually, like I've done in the past," Gullit said.

Newcastle have selection problems, with midfielder Dietmar Hamann and defender Steve Hovew injured, and doubts over defender Nikos Dabizas and Keith Gillespie.

The Leicester City captain, Steve Walsh, is Martin O'Neill's only injury worry ahead of Middlesbrough's visit to Filbert Street. The defender injured ribs in training and is rated as doubtful, but Muzzy Izet's knee injury has improved and he is expected to play.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, believes his new Chilean defender, Javier Margas, can make up for the loss of the injured Rio Ferdinand. Margas, renowned at France 98 for his bright red hair, makes his home debut against Wimbledon. "It is a blow to lose Rio but Margas is a quality player," Redknapp said. "He has played against teams like Argentina and Brazil regularly."

Hodgson takes a tough line with Sherwood

By ALAN NIXON

THE BLACKBURN Rovers manager, Roy Hodgson, cracked down on captain Tim Sherwood yesterday by dropping him - and telling him he will not get a pay rise.

Hodgson took the bold step of leaving out Sherwood from tonight's clash with Spurs, the club who have twice tried to buy him in the last week. Sherwood is replaced by Billy

McKinlay, with Chris Sutton taking the captain's armband.

"Because of Tottenham's unwanted interest I have had to take him out of the team," Hodgson said. "Spurs have been told twice, both verbally and in writing that the player is not for sale. The player's agent continues to make noises and unsettle him, so much so that I have to leave him out. Tim is not in the right frame of mind, he is very tempted by the supposed offer from Tottenham

and by the possibility of returning to his native north London.

"Tottenham's interest in him has destabilised our club. Tim signed a new four-year contract just seven months ago."

Hodgson revealed that Sherwood had asked Blackburn for a new deal - on the same money that Tottenham are ready to pay to him - but that the suggestion had been thrown out by Blackburn's owner, Jack Walker.

He said: "Both Jack Walker and I see a defection from Tim Sherwood as being a definite negative. We've told him in no uncertain terms that he's not for sale but it has not resolved the situation. He obviously does not believe that is the case and that his contract should be improved."

However, Hodgson is also prepared to sell Sherwood if the problem carries on as he feels an unhappy player would disrupt a delicate harmony at the club where several big names have left over the last year.

He is putting team spirit first and said: "I don't want to leave myself open to any charges that a player is playing whose heart and head is elsewhere. The only way I can justify leaving a McKinlay or Flitcroft out of the team is when I know that the 11 who are playing are blue and white through and through."

Hodgson has shown in the past that he will part with unhappy men - although in Sherwood's case he is willing to let him stay if he forgets about Spurs. "Hopefully this situation will be resolved, even by Saturday, as I look forward to working with Tim. I respect and admire him," he said.

"We will need definitely him if we are going to do well in both the Championship and in Europe."

SPORTING DIGEST

Jordan's driver delay

By DEREK ALLSON

JORDAN'S PLAN to announce their driver line-up for next season at this weekend's Italian Grand Prix have been put back a fortnight because of the team's continuing contractual dispute over the services of Ralf Schumacher.

Damon Hill is due to be confirmed for another year but Jordan want to name both their drivers at one presentation and they may have to find a replacement for Schumacher, who is intent on joining Williams. The contract case is scheduled to be heard in the High Court today.

Schumacher, ordered not to challenge Hill for the lead at the Belgian Grand Prix 10 days ago, insisted after the race he was determined to move on.

Jordan, thought to be paying Hill around £3.5m a year, say they cannot afford another hefty salary and could turn to a driver who brings in money.

Hill's former team-mate at Arrows, the Brazilian Pedro Diniz, has the backing of his father's supermarket millions, while Tyrrell's Japanese, Toranosuke Takagi, generates a substantial sponsorship package.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL Denver 27 New England 21.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 73.

GOLF

Christy O'Connor Jr has withdrawn from this week's British Masters at the Forest of Arden following the death of his son, Darren, in a car crash in Kilgobbin, near Galway, late on Monday.

ROWING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cologne, Sept 7) Lightweight single sculls (first three to qualify for final) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 2nd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 7min 36.12sec.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 15 Cleveland 1; Texas 6 Minnesota 0; Boston 4 New York Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5; Seattle 11 Baltimore 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 5 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 8 Atlanta 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2; Colorado 13 Florida 10; Houston 1 Cincinnati 0; Arizona 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND stage 10 (108 miles, Madison as Grand Prix) 1st G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 27min 22sec; 2nd G. Lombardi (It) 4hr 28min 11sec; 3rd G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 4th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 5th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 6th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 7th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 8th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 9th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec; 10th G. Guldin (Pol) 4hr 28min 11sec.

FOOTBALL

Tommy Powell, the former Derby winger whose career spanned three decades, has died at the age of 7



SPORT



GERMANY'S VOGTS OF NO-CONFIDENCE P24 • DICKIE'S LAST WALK TO THE PAVILION P20

Merson
move
angers
Robson

BY NICK HARRIS

PAUL MERSON yesterday completed his £6.75m move from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa and provoked an angry reaction from Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, over the reasons he cited for leaving the North-east.

Merson said he left Teesside partially because he wanted to escape an environment where he may be tempted to return to gambling and drinking. "I don't go around preaching to people to stop drinking and stop gambling, that's going to happen everywhere," he said. "[The Middlesbrough players] are not gambling £10,000 or £20,000 but some of them like a bet and I can't just go into the dressing-room and tell them to stop."

The 30-year-old England midfielder, a recovering alcoholic who also has a history of gambling and drugs problems, added: "It goes much deeper than that, and I just had to get out of that environment."

"But I am not jumping off anyone who says that is out of order. My conscience is clear. I went down from Arsenal to get them out of that division."

Robson was furious at Merson's move. "This club has bent over backwards to help Paul Merson whenever he needed it. I am disappointed by his attitude and feel let down. I've been at clubs which have been running card schools on the way to the game, but we don't even do that here. To say his fellow professionals drink and gamble is total nonsense."

Merson moved to Middlesbrough in July last year for £4.5m after 13 years at Arsenal. Having made a recovery after years of personal problems, he earned an international recall, helped Boro win promotion to

the Premier League and took part in the World Cup. He was first reported to be considering leaving the North-east last week, as his relationship with Paul Gascoigne, a fellow England player with a history of personal problems, reportedly deteriorated. It has also been confirmed, however, that the Villa manager, John Gregory, had been approached by Merson's agent about his availability before the player made his potential health concerns public.

As Merson prepares to start a new chapter in his career - he was not signed in time to make his debut against Newcastle United tonight - there seem to be more questions than answers over precisely why he has chosen now to move.

"There is a lot going on behind the scenes, things which I don't want to go into," he said. "I hope the fans don't get the hump because if they believe what they read then they will think that I walked out."

He is adamant that there was no possibility of him moving to Tottenham. "I didn't ask to leave Middlesbrough. They let me go," Merson said. "They tried to sell me to Tottenham, probably because there was the chance of a player swap. But I didn't want to go to Tottenham. If Aston Villa hadn't have come in for me I would have stayed."

Merson becomes Villa's second most expensive player after £7m signing Stan Collymore and now there are doubts over whether he has a future at Villa Park. Gregory dropped a hint that Collymore's days may be numbered when he said: "I think our striker Julian Joachim needs someone of the experience of Paul Merson alongside him."

More football, pages 24 and 25



Paul Merson, flanked by the Aston Villa manager John Gregory (left) and director Mark Ansell, completes his £6.75m transfer from Middlesbrough yesterday.

United face supporters' wrath

BY GUY HODGSON

MANCHESTER UNITED are bracing themselves for an outpouring of frustration tonight by supporters opposed to BSkyB's proposed £575m takeover of the club. They meet Charlton Athletic at Old Trafford amid growing local antipathy toward the deal.

A small demonstration took place on Monday evening but tonight will be the first time that United fans meet en masse. There will be more than 55,000 at Old Trafford and the vast majority are against the deal. The targets will be the club's chief executive, Martin Edwards, and Rupert Murdoch, the major shareholder in BSkyB.

"I haven't met anyone who supports what's going on," Lee Hodgkins, secretary of the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association (IMUSA), said. "I've heard a few fans on the radio saying that we can buy Ronaldo and do all sort of wonderful things, but I think they're taking a short-term and selfish view."

"There will be a cost, just as there has been since the club went public in 1991. The price has been paid by younger local fans who have found access to Old Trafford has been put out of reach."

IMUSA, who will distribute thousands of leaflets this evening, met last night to formalise how to express their opposition but already there

have been calls from other fans to boycott Murdoch's newspapers and to return subscriptions for his satellite television broadcasts. "I'll not take up my season ticket next year if he takes over," one supporter outside Old Trafford said yesterday.

Edwards and Maurice Watkins, a director and a solicitor, had a meeting with the club's financial advisers in London until the early hours of yesterday and a full meeting of the Pic board will convene some time today. There are reports, however, that Edwards has already accepted BSkyB's offer of around 225p a share.

Meanwhile the manager, Alex Ferguson, who knew nothing about the takeover until Sunday, has been

preparing to meet Charlton, the surprise Premiership leaders, with the attention of the football world centering on the field rather than on it. Yesterday he insisted that no matter how vehement the demonstration is before the kick-off, supporters will refocus once the whistle goes.

"I don't think the fans will take it out on the team," he said. "They recognise it's nothing to do with the players. It's Manchester United they'll be watching and that's the important thing."

"There has been great loyalty shown by the players over the years and that has been shown by the fact they've signed long contracts. They love the club, as I do myself, and I think the supporters recognise that."

Ferguson agreed the atmosphere had changed this week but that it had not affected his staff. "It's a Pic thing and we're cut off from all that," he said. "The players have got on with training and I've got a million things to do during the day. It's been business as usual."

"You read about it in the paper and obviously you hope that anything that happens is good for the club and for the supporters. Really that is all I know."

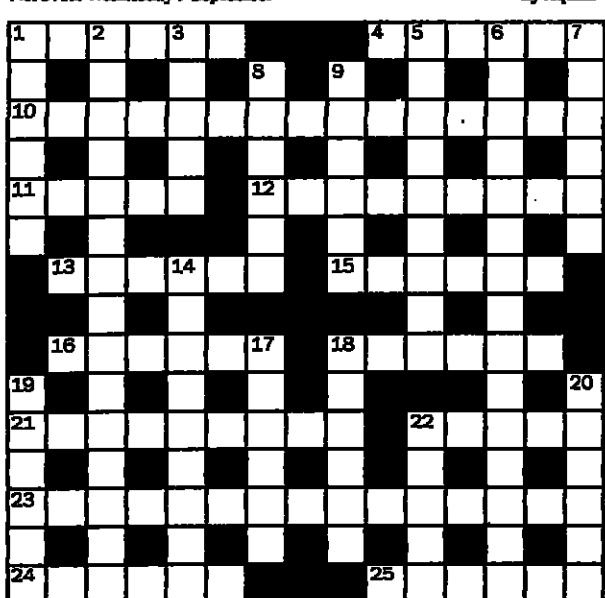
United's Nicky Butt will miss tonight's match against Charlton as he recovers from dental surgery. Jesper Blomqvist, the £4.5m signing from Parma during the summer, is fit again and will be on the substitutes' bench.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3711, Wednesday 9 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 The Circle Line scheme (6)
- 4 Reluctant, in church, to dress up (6)
- 10 New style of farmhand in Welsh air (4, 2, 2, 7)
- 11 Breaking nose, as-sailant ends attack (6)
- 12 Goes away and tidies up room (6, 3)
- 13 Great landlords have Ibsen's spirits (6)
- 15 Dialogue that is in early film (6)
- 16 Illicit affairs of prophet going round ancient city (6)
- 18 Passage has Goya composition in view, oddly (6)
- 21 Pressure unstable in

DOWN

- 2 cartons (9)
- 3 Peter out, clothed in gold, for so long (5)
- 5 Reliable sort forget Northwest trip? (5, 2, 8)
- 8 Joint capital of one in Hardy novel (6)
- 9 One gapes as celebrity goes before the queen (6)
- 10 Everyone in tug is fat (6)
- 11 Answering me, they adapted US novelist (6, 9)
- 12 Marsupial on street needs a place to settle (5)
- 13 Eleventh-hour revival of the side (9)
- 14 Omar Khayyam's pathetic index? (3, 6, 6)
- 15 False tears, perhaps, at zoo's opening (6)
- 16 Shifts what is counterfeited on board (6)
- 17 Fruit produce? (6)
- 18 Boarded up, say, in out-building (9)
- 19 County employees (6)
- 20 Affected ways of Virginia, with tiny changes (6)
- 21 Sea-duck spotted in Tabasco territory (6)
- 22 Peter's first doorkeeper, an aggressive sort? (6)
- 23 Ward off, say, on time (5)

©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford.
Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

Wednesday 9 September 1998

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Pleat in pursuit
of new happiness

DAVID PLEAT has promised to put the smile back into the Tottenham dressing-room while he is in charge of team affairs. The club's director of football has assumed the role of first-team coach until a successor is found to Christian Gross, who was sacked on Saturday.

Pleat hinted that Spurs would be a better place of work for the players under his rule than it was under that of his Swiss predecessor, who some feel may have had a communication problem with his players.

"I might have to say one or two things to the players in an English they understand," Pleat said. "They can relate to me - I am not into poetry or Shakespeare or Churchill's war memoirs, and I don't throw cold water buckets over them or whatever you have to do to get them going."

"There is a banter within that dressing-room that has to be understood. There are innuendoes and all sorts of things. Footballers are a strange breed and are of a certain culture."

Pleat also admitted there were times when he wanted to interfere in the way Gross ran the team but was unable to, which suggested he and Gross did not have a particularly good working relationship.

He said: "There was one particular occasion when I was sitting in the stand and I wanted to go and give some advice to Christian, and it was very frustrating. There was one particular game when I felt sure I could have helped."

"This director of football job

can be done if there is sense on all sides. When Lawrie McMenemy was at Southampton he used to watch the games, because I do believe you need an overview. He would go down at half-time and have two minutes with Alan Ball in the boot room before he went in and spoke to the players."

"You can concur at half-time very quickly and give the manager one thing he needs to do, such as saying: 'Keep Ginola on the touchline'. I don't see it as an awkward position if you can relate to people. It is only if you get jealous of people and want to take their job, and that is not what I came here for."

Pleat, who was one of Tottenham's more successful managers during his spell in charge at White Hart Lane towards the end of the Eighties, is relishing his temporary new role in the hot seat.

"I see my job description as having to maintain and revive the spirit and confidence; win one or two games and keep steady; don't shout too much, don't cry too much; just get on with the business and give the club a chance to find a realistic successor who genuinely can take the club forward," he said. "I shall try and enjoy it, although it is difficult when the pressure is on. If you feel you are capable, you shouldn't deny yourself the opportunity to do the job when you are asked to do it."

"Sometimes, what goes around comes around, and I am pleased to be here. I have come to terms with lots of things and as long as I am calm and sensible about this, we will be okay."

ZENITH
Swiss watchmakers since 1865
LIFE IS IN THE MOVEMENTCHRONOMASTER
El Primero

AVAILABLE AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF THE
GOLDSMITH GROUP, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S
LEADING QUALITY JEWELLERS
WITH OVER 150 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

GOLDSMITH'S
Fine Jewellery

FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST CALL FREE
ON 0800 GOLDSMITHS (0800 465376)

السنة ٢٠٠٩

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The junkie will see you now

A study in *The Lancet* tells us that 60 per cent of doctors drink too much. My reaction was to wait for the punch line, but that was apparently it. Still reeling from that revelation, we were told that 10 per cent of junior doctors use other substances like Ecstasy or amphetamines, which led to a lot of tut-tutting on GMTV that morning. Certainly it is nice to hope that the doctor treating you is not completely off their head, but if anyone close to me was in a casualty department with an acute "recreational" drug reaction, it would also be nice if the doctor treating them had some personal experience of the issues involved. More worrying than the small *Lancet* survey is the British Medical Association's estimate of 9,000 doctors at any one time needing help for addictions of one kind or another. I was one of those 9,000, although someone else, at least for now, has taken my place.

The trouble with addiction is that it's just such a logical thing to do. You discover something that makes you feel good - you want to do it again, if you've any sense. If you happen to be addicted to parascending or rock-climbing, it looks good on your CV. If you happen to be addicted to controlled pharmaceuticals, it can lead to all sorts of problems. Being a logical person, when I discovered that a few mls of fentanyl (a synthetic morphine-like drug taken in a glass of orange juice would make a night on call as a junior anaesthetist a complete doddle, I started to do it on a regular basis. I was never "stoned", at least to start with. It would just ease that ache across the shoulders, and would make the pager bleeping at 4am a little more bearable. Then things drifted a little. I started taking stuff home in the evenings to help me relax. And then at weekends. And then because I was studying like crazy for the most arduous set of exams I had ever sat (all of which I passed). And then I started taking fentanyl for any excuse whatsoever. Most of the time I just took it to feel roughly normal, but since I was using in one shot (intra-nasally by now) more than the average patient would get through in a two-hour general anaesthetic, "normal" is one thing I definitely wasn't.

Then, inevitably, I was caught. At a strange hospital where I was doing a week's locum (for the drugs, you understand, not the money), someone saw me pocket a syringe and the police were called. Eventually, it was decided no charge would be made against me and I was only cautioned. But it was also the end of my career in anaesthetics, and the beginning of the worst three years of my life. I was suspended from work, naturally, and also referred by the police to the General Medical Council.

The GMC has a very polite way of doing things, and I was sent a letter inviting me to refrain from medical practice, and placing me under the supervision of a consultant psychiatrist. During the entire time I was under GMC supervision, when the most intimate details of my personal background were discussed between them and my supervising psychiatrist, I never once received let-

Recent revelations about the startling number of doctors addicted to drugs came as no surprise to Dr Martin Hatcher. As a junior anaesthetist, he couldn't get through the day without them

ters from anyone other than a member of the administrative staff there. The letters only referred to "The Screener", an Orwellian term for the GMC's screener for health, who always remains anonymous. I have since been told that this is to protect "Screeners" from attack by mad, drunken, disgruntled doctors whom they refuse to allow to practice. (I now treat mad, drunken, disgruntled patients every day, but like all other doctors in the real world, I don't have the privilege of anonymity.) At the end of 1997, the GMC had 181 doctors under supervision which, according to the BMA figures, leaves a lot unaccounted for.

The psychiatrist whose supervision I was under was very straightforward. Common sort of thing, anaesthetists hooked on opiates. Quick course of methadone, Bob's your uncle. Maybe a bit of counselling. Then keep your nose clean for a while and find a new career path. I almost started to look forward to it. Unfortunately my "counsellor" had never dealt with an addicted doctor before, and seemed to regard me as some sort of minor celebrity. So I was advised not to take part in any of the group sessions. Then the methadone stopped. Then my "new career" was suggested as psychiatry itself, mainly it seemed because none of the drugs on offer are the type people take through choice.

The next couple of years are still, thankfully, a bit of a blur. I stumbled through a few crappy jobs with little or no help. Doctors with drug problems don't get plum jobs - the crappy ones are the only ones left. I bought a lot of cocaine cough linctus, fiddled a lot of prescriptions, and faked a lot of urine tests. One of the patients I saw for a while was a former consultant psychiatrist still fighting an obviously lost battle with drink. He, too, was under GMC supervision. His supervising consultant was the one I was working for at the time, but the two hardly ever met. Instead, this by then pathetic figure was palmed off on to me. We exchanged platitudes once a fortnight for a short time, and then he died. Such is the care lavished on the profession by their own.

The low point must have been that morning my long-range pager went off because I was late for my psychiatry out-patient clinic. I knew there were 10 depressed patients waiting to see me. The reason I was late was because I was wandering around B&Q looking for a suitable piece of piping to fit in the car exhaust. One that

was also long enough to reach the car window. I was worried that an ordinary hosepipe might melt or something. It's strange how the mind works at such times.

But, as you'll have guessed by now, the car exhaust plan was never followed through. Instead, with the help of people around me I realised I wasn't getting the treatment that was right for me. So I requested and, unusually, got a change of supervisor. I also got to see another counsellor, who was less susceptible to bullshit than the previous one. (Being impervious to the complete load of toss that addicts use as excuses for their behaviour is a prerequisite to being a good drugs counsellor.) My life is not perfect. I do not, however, need to resort to controlled drugs any more. I hold down a responsible and stressful job in acute medicine, and the people I work with know about my past.

The authors of the *Lancet* paper question whether it is time to do what they do in the US, and start random testing of doctors for drugs. But such tests do not appear to have had much impact on the use of prohibited substances within sport, and if anyone knows how to falsify a urine test, it's a doctor. My own opinion is the only thing that will help doctors who abuse substances is a change in the culture. A change which recognises that this problem has always existed, and allows the topic to be discussed in something other than shocked whispers. A change that would mean coming forward for help did not mean an automatic letter from the GMC. Their new motto ("Protecting Patients, Guiding Doctors") is I suppose the right way round, and requires them to be able to instil fear into miscreants. But I cannot see how the sword of Damocles will encourage doctors to seek help. The protection of patients is simply mutually exclusive with the effective, early treatment of sick doctors.

We need an independent body that doctors know they can approach in confidence, and through which they will receive first-class advice and treatment. Better treatment than anyone, in fact, because we know every trick in the book. The BMA has a 24-hour counselling service, and there is also the National Counselling Service for Sick Doctors, both of which represent a start. How effective either is I cannot at the moment say. If I ever need to find out, I'll let you know.

LASER TREATMENT FOR SHORT-SIGHT, LONG-SIGHT & ASTIGMATISM

To learn how our doctors specialise in the correction of short-sight, long-sight and astigmatism attend our

OPEN DAYS

on

Thurs 10th Sept 9-5pm

Friday 11th Sept 9-5pm

Sat 12th Sept 10-4pm

FREE ASSESSMENT

No Appointment Necessary

LONDON
128 Finchley Road NW3
(opp. Waitrose)

BRISTOL
98 Bristol Road BS1
(bottom of Corn St)

BIRMINGHAM
13 Clare Street BS1
(nr. Macdonalds Drive Thru)

MANCHESTER
2 Albert Square M2
(opp. Town hall)

GLASGOW
18 Charing Cross Mans G3
(Junc. Sauchiehall St)

NEWCASTLE
2 Mosely Street NE1
(nr. Swan roundabout)



If you can't attend our open days please call
0990 14 33 14
for a free information pack.

INSIDE	Letters	2	Features	9	Secretarial	15-16
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Arts	10	Radio	19
	Obituaries	6-7	Theatre	11	Satellite TV	19
	Fashion	8	Finance	12-13	Today's TV	20
						FINANCE

Vivisection views

Sir: It is a relief that someone as eminent as Professor Stephen Hawking has defended the current need for vivisection ("Hawking defends tests on animals", 7 September). It is extremely unfortunate that no real alternative exists.

I once asked a vegan friend whether he used medicines (because inevitably they had been tested on animals). He told me that he didn't if they were recent additions to the market. When I asked what he would do if his young son had a disease that was fatal unless a new drug under trial was given, he admitted that he would want his son to live.

The problem of vivisection will not go away overnight but violence against scientists who are devoting their life to the advancement of medicine will not solve anything.
SARAH HUNTER
Diggle, Greater Manchester

Sir: Not so long ago, it was a "scientific fact" that newborn babies could not feel pain. Today, it is a "scientific fact" that the use of morphine for pain relief can lead to addiction. Both these "facts" have and continue to cause a great deal of human pain and suffering.

Your recent reporting on the protests at the Hill Grove cat breeding factory (Weekend Review, 5 September) and Stephen Hawking's beliefs on the value of vivisection make much of facts vs feelings - that protesters are sentimental fools and vivisectionists and their supporters are led by logic. In which case, one wonders why they don't use prisoners, the mentally ill, pensioners, the long-term unemployed and others whose burden on the state outweighs their monetary value. Being human, their response to environment, drugs, surgery and other treatments would result in far more accurate results and speedier trials, costing less, not least to the taxpayer.

The value we each put on life and suffering will always be subjective and this is partly due to the way society views that which is considered to be alive and capable of suffering, which is in itself subjective. Australian aborigines, American Indians, the poor and the Irish have all been considered sub-human, incapable of finer feelings, animals. Today, we view such opinion with disbelief, just as society views vivisection with revulsion. That the law condones vivisection does not mean that it is defensible. What changes such laws is, basically, compassion.

Compassion may be far too "sentimental", not nearly logical enough, but I know which society I'd prefer to live in.
CLARE PROUT
London W10

Sir: I am very interested in what Stephen Hawking has to say about physics but why I should be remotely interested in what a physicist has to say about ethics I don't know.
JOHN HINDLEY
London N1

Sir: Animals to be eaten are killed instantly at an abattoir. Animals to be used for medical experiments may suffer for hours, days, weeks. If research and experiments are necessary, let them use people.
VINCENT VERE
London TW9

Man not United?

Sir: Martin Edwards and cohorts have contrived to tear the heart out of Manchester United Football Club. We have rarely played exciting football since the decline of Eric Cantona. The salary requirements of world class strikers are derided. Merchandising is prioritised over fan loyalty. For heaven's sake, a disc jockey is employed on match days who plays Oasis!

The club costs in twice that of its nearest rival, four times the premier league average, twice the revenue of Juventus and AC Milan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Continuing our series on the Portuguese fishery, two young sailors sleep on deck as their boat returns to port at the end of a day's fishing Rui Xavier

combined (who, curiously, can afford world-class salaries), and anticipates financial bonanzas from its own Pay TV station and from putative European leagues.

Must it now further humiliate its fans and sacrifice its soul at the altar of corporate power games? A change in the hierarchy and management style is welcome, but one that restores the vitality and culture of a once-wonderful football club.
PETER DAWSON
Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Sir: Any headline which includes the phrase "Blair must stop Murdoch..." (leading article, 7 September) is an exercise in futility of which Sisyphus would be proud. You could more profitably publish an editorial advocating the abolition of bad weather.
JOHN HALL
Dorset, Telford, Shropshire

Is it possible that the extent of Rupert Murdoch's influence over our lives is overstated? Reading the Sun, watching satellite television and supporting Manchester United, although unsavoury, are non-compulsory.
MARK TAYLOR
Grantham, Lincolnshire

Elected monarchy

Sir: Quite apart from the literally nonsensical suggestion that a "monarchy" could ever be elective or anything other than strictly hereditary, the unthinkable thinkers of Demos have come up with a real peach with their idea that we must "break down the barriers" between royalty and the people so that they can not only symbolise the country but actually "become part of British life rather than just... observers" (The Independent on Sunday, 6 September).

This is ahistorical, unconstitutional tosh because the only thing symbolised by the British Crown is the

Establishment and all those who gladly accept their own undemocratic subservience to it. So what Demos has omitted completely from its proposal is any sense that this monarchy survives as the apex of an entrenched British class system.

The monarch reigns over us; we cannot pick and choose about this or who that monarch should be.

There are no half-measures, least of all the moronic system proposed by Demos, which requires us to go on voting until we can find a royal that most of us are happy with. On the contrary, we retain the institution until we are ready to drop it lock, stock and double-barrel.

The burning question is: why does anybody pay Demos any money to do anything? They couldn't think themselves out of a paper bag.
TONY WALTON
Hove
East Sussex

Sir: Feeding the hungry with unnatural plants whose ability to sustain health has not been proven is a crime against mankind ("Crop engineering 'failing' the hungry", 4 September). If even a fraction of the money that is currently being poured into the search for chemicals and genes which will "cure" all ills were diverted into establishing sustainable agriculture based on local crops in all countries, we would no longer have ills to cure.

Of course, there is no profit in health.
GEORGE STIDOLPH
Chairman, Scottish Consumer Association for Natural Food, Glasgow

Sir: John Burchell wants cyclists to use bells in central London (letter, 8 September). Unfortunately the feeble tinkle

Sir: I believe that the Belgian people rejected Leopold as their king in the 1930s, on moral grounds, following the death of his wife, the beautiful Queen Astrid, in a car accident - he driving.

They demanded that the throne be taken by his elder son, who reigned for many years, being much loved and respected.

Is this true?
IRENE BIRCH
Kirby, Merseyside

Christmas jeer

Sir: I would like to claim the first sighting of Christmas decorations for sale this season (John Lewis, Brent Cross, London, 10 am Monday 7 September).

This gives me a princely three months, two weeks and four days to decide between red and silver baubles and to plan the positioning of my manger scene, while also encouraging me to bypass autumn and assume stress levels more

commensurate with the so-called festive season.

Surely it is time for the consumer to take a stand against such ludicrous manipulation of our natural life patterns and explain to whoever makes these decisions that at this beautiful, comparatively peaceful and contemplative time of year their offensive display only makes us want to insert several Wise Men where the Christmas star don't shine.
CAROLYN BADHAM
London NW4

The Boer camps

Sir: John Stawson's comments (letter, 4 September) on John Pollock's Boer War article ring less than true. My wife's Boer grandmother often stated, of the Standerton concentration camp, in which she spent part of the war, that the epidemic did indeed have a cause in the lack of knowledge of hygiene of Boer women.

The Afrikaners have for decades spread the tale that "the British invented the concentration camp in the Boer War". It was in fact invented just before that war by the Spanish in Cuba.

The camps had little in common with the Nazi version, and were genuinely intended only to concentrate civilians away from the fighting, and prevent them supporting their guerrillas with food and shelter.
LEN CLARKE
Uxbridge, Middlesex

Tough on timber

Sir: PG Harris of the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) protests (letter, 7 September) about the lack of credit given to the UK timber industry for improving forest management, and points to its environmental timber purchasing policy as "a practical way of making progress with timber producers". Unfortunately this policy is deeply flawed.

Signatories to the TTF purchasing policy are required to seek documentary evidence of legal and well-managed forest sources. The problem is that this "evidence" usually amounts simply to claims from the logging companies themselves - some of whom have been convicted of illegally felling timber - that they are not involved in illegal or unsustainable logging.

Because of misleading green claims on timber products, Friends of the Earth is encouraging people to buy only timber with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo. This is the only effective independent certification scheme.

The UK Timber Trade could have an important role in helping to protect the world's forests, but its flawed purchasing policy is not the answer.
SARAH TZACK
Forest Campaigner
Friends of the Earth
London N1

IN BRIEF

of a cycle bell would be all but inaudible against the background roar of London traffic.

In any case, if there is time to ring a bell there is time to take avoiding action. When a pedestrian steps out in front of you without looking, as frequently happens, you need both hands on the brakes. Shouting a warning is all that's left if an accident is to be avoided.

ANTHONY CAMPBELL
London N14

Sir: I should like to point out that I was sacked by XFM. I did not "walk", as was claimed in Steven Jelbert's article "World record holder" (31 August).
KEITH CAMERON
London W1

Sir: I was at the AGM of the electronics giant GEC recently, and wasn't really surprised when the chair said that its exports of military equipment had not been affected by Labour's ethical foreign policy.

I wonder how Labour peer and GEC board member Lord Simpson of Dunkeld feels about his government's ethical foreign policy - is he pleased or disappointed that it has had no effect whatever?
BEN NIBLETT
Leicester

Sir: When firemen are paid by the fires they extinguish, they become arsonists. Now that scientists have to bid for money to support their research, we suffer a new health scare every month.
PETER SAUNDY
Longmynd, Powys

Killing shellfish

Sir: There are various recommended ways of killing shellfish: by immersion in a salt water/ice slurry; by putting them into boiling water; by putting them in cold water and slowly bringing it to the boil; and with the larger animals, by piercing them at certain ganglia (nerve) centres.

There has been much discussion as to how long the animals should be kept in the ice slurry before boiling or cutting up and whether the formation of ice crystals can cause pain. An opinion among scientists is that the smaller shellfish will die in a matter of seconds when dropped into boiling water. It is questionable whether a few seconds of possibly extreme pain is acceptable, and piercing the animals needs considerable skill.

Some work has been done by the late zoologist Dr John Baker into passing an electric current through a water tank, so stunning the animals, but this has only been researched on lobster and crab.

What is certain is that most invertebrates have sensory receptors. They respond to noxious stimulation such as pinching, squeezing or cutting of the body wall, and research has shown that there is a strong possibility they are susceptible to pain and stress. Lobsters dropped into boiling water have been known to show powerful struggling movements for up to two minutes, and Dr Baker concluded that these were indications of pain.

Very little is understood about invertebrates. What is certain, however, is that there will never be a truly humane method of killing these essentially healthy animals, and the advice of Shellfish Network is to leave them in peace.

JULIE ROXBURGH
Leatherhead, Surrey

Sir: I was interested to read about Mr Stokers Housefly, Parasitic and Biting Insect Support Group (letter, 7 September) but surely Hilaire Belloc said the last word on this many decades ago:

"He prayeth best who loveth best. All creatures great and small. The streptococcus is the test. I love him best of all."
PETER CROFT
Cambridge

Dogma and truth

Sir: Ronald Pearce (letter, 4 September) asks when bishops and other church leaders will share their knowledge of the biblical and theological scholarship of the last 150 years.

The persecution of David Jenkins, the former Bishop of Durham, must deter anyone who tries to question the accepted dogmas of the creed. Evangelicals and traditionalists scream against "liberals" because they "undermine simple faith". The old imagery permeates the services in prayer, hymns, preaching and in much religious writing. The language and music are so beautiful that they resist change.

There are attempts to educate the laity, but parochial theology is usually for the clergy. Many of those who undertake training for ministry find biblical criticism enlightening, but others close their minds to it. They have a need for certainty, not questioning. A pilgrimage of faith which takes account of modern cosmology and symbolism leads an increasing number towards Christian Humanism.
MOLLY ROSENTHAL
Denbigh, Clwyd

Sir: Ronald Pearce apparently believes that the gospels are not historical accounts of the life of Jesus, but creative writing. I suggest that the inevitable result of such a belief is the reduction in church congregations which Mr Pearce goes on to note.

On the other hand, those churches which teach that the Bible is the true and inerrant word of God find their congregations grow. People search for truth, and when they find it are unlikely to let it go.
DUNCAN REEVE
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

A midsummer day's ring interrupts the idyll of the king

FROM TIME to time I have brought you extracts from that fabulous lost Shakespeare play *The History of King Tony, or New Love's Labour Lost*, detailing the bumpy rise and rise of King Tony of Britain, and I am often asked if there is more where that came from. There certainly is, as follows...

The scene is somewhere in Tuscany. Enter King Tony, wearing a broad smile and broad pair of shorts, together with his Queen and men-at-arms. Tony: Come Queen, and find your ease upon this spot;

This is a lovely stretch of sward, where we may stretch our tired limbs and take our rest. A busy life it is upon the throne, but now and then a king must be alone. Cherie: Alone? Call this alone? Then who are these five silent men accompanying us, built like gorillas from the African jungle?
T: They are my bodyguards, as well you know.
C: To guard your body from what pressing danger? What enemy creeps upon us through the grass? Are you afraid of rivals here in Italy?

Thinkst thou Duke Gordon-Brown will find you here And strike you down, or that Lord Prescott might initiate some plot to have you slain And mount the throne he dearly wished was his?
T: No, no, my love, I fear them not at all!
C: Then tell your hulking men to keep away. Let us have at least one private day!

T: It is not my own wish, dear heart, that we should have this level of security. From earliest times it has been the thing to be close guarded, when one is a king. By men with walkie-talkies, ID passes, badly hidden guns and dark, dark glasses. A ringing noise is heard. Several of the men-at-arms leap to their feet, whip out guns and shoot wildly. King Tony produces a mobile phone.
T: Nay, stay, sweet gentles, do not be alarmed! It is my mobile phone! We are not harmed!
C: Out, out, damned telephone! For it has ways to drag us early from our holidays!
King Tony listens intently to the phone, then rises.
T: Alas, my Queen, the sun that bids us laze, The red, red wine that warms our English blood,



MILES KINGSTON
'Yea, even the cunning pasta in its myriad shapes Cannot suffice to fight against my duty'

Yea, even the cunning pasta in its myriad shapes, Cannot suffice to fight against my duty.
C: And that is what?
T: To go straight back to England,

Where Fenian rebels have caused unearthly carnage Upon the streets of Omagh, up in Ulster.

At least, I think it's Omagh. The line was bad. C: But will it help? How can you be of aid Merely by striding through the Irish crowd And shaking hands with everyone you meet? I have seen you seen smile, and nod, and weep. Until the cameramen did have their fill Of swooning shots of you, in grief, full face: And very well you do it too, right BAFTA-style. Yet must I ask again, how can it help? Stay here, my lord, in Tuscany, right here! And bring your family, not the Irish, cheer! T: I wish I could, sweet one, I wish I could. But I am told by Alastair on the line That Bill, the King of the Americas, is winging his royal way even now To Ireland, to appear a man of peace And steal my thunder while I sunbathe here. I hate him!
C: Hate King Bill, your older brother? Hate the man whom you do oft embrace?

T: I am a friend to him as the sun to the moon. I hardly know him. Oh, yes, side by side. We often stand for portrait opportunities And smile and wink and nod. But after that He forgets my face, my name, my everything. I love him not. I hate him very much. And now he flies to Belfast in my absence To reap the praise that should be mine by right. C: For this you'd sacrifice a fortnight in the sun? T: To be the Irish man of peace? I would! I'd give the earth to be called King Tony the Good. They exult slowly, on their way back to England. From behind a tree, whence he has been watching them, comes the Duke of Livingstone. Ken: When I am voted Mayor of London Town, I'll bring this pulled up fellow crashing down! But no one must know that I was ever here! A bodyguard returns to retrieve a walkie-talkie and sees the Duke of Livingstone. Bodyguard: Fancy seeing you, red Ken! What cheer! Exeunt severally.

More of this cultural milestone soon.

July 2015

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Bank must cut interest rates, and quickly

MOST ECONOMISTS seem to expect the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates at their present level after its two-day deliberations, which begin today. There are various reasons for this. There is still a general feeling that the Bank has to prove its "toughness", establishing its anti-inflation credentials in the markets. The Bank is naturally cautious about making a rapid U-turn on rates, especially at a time of such financial instability.

More specifically, earnings growth in Britain is still higher than the Bank would like, anxious about the implications of that for its ability to meet the Government's inflation target. Some on the committee fear a repeat of mistakes made in the wake of "Black Monday" in 1987, when rates were cut too soon and too deeply, allowing inflation to get out of hand.

These fears should no longer dominate policy. For one thing, the situation now is not like that of 1987. Global financial turbulence is an established deflationary force, with evidence emerging all over the world that recession, not inflation, is the foremost danger to prosperity.

With South-East Asia's economies still contracting, a wave of cheap imports and cheaper labour will break over the Western economies in the next year. Even more important, export markets will shrink, and world trade will become further depressed. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, is no dove on inflation; but even he has begun to hint that interest rates' next move will be down.

Similarly, on the domestic front no one has to look far to find signs of a slowdown. Up to a few weeks ago it was possible for the Bank to point to a vigorous service sector to justify higher rates, to restrain the boom in those services; now the sector seems about to follow manufacturing into stagnation. Earnings growth is slowing; high-street sales are flat; house prices are falling. In fact, as both trade unions and business leaders have argued in talks with the Government, British economic growth will slow over the next two years to almost nothing.

As Keynes once said, the prevailing view among economists is often dominated by the ghosts of the previous generation. In this case, central bankers are haunted by memories of the Seventies, when inflation roared out of control. But the situation is very different now. Labour market reforms, free investment flows and technological advance all make inflationary spirals less likely. Real interest rates are historically high; we are



entitled to ask whether this can be justified, if everything central banks have told us about the advantages of liberal capital markets is true.

The economy is slowing so quickly that a decisive cut in interest rates, of half a percentage point, should be on the agenda. This would prevent more money flowing into sterling, aiding its fall on the foreign exchanges and bringing relief to exporters. It would mean our economy moving marginally more into line with those in the euro bloc, aiding our ability to join them, should we wish. A rate cut would also stabilise the jittery stock market.

There is an international aspect to the decision, too. Capital flight is forcing interest rates up around the

world, as governments compete to attract money into their currencies. Lower interest rates in Europe and the US are vital to restore confidence and reverse this process. The Prime Minister has called for a meeting of the G7 nations to discuss the world's unstable financial system; Britain could now give a signal of determined Western economic expansion, just when the developing markets of Russia, Latin America and Asia are crying out for it.

In fact, it is difficult to make any case for interest rates being maintained at their present level: the time is right to loosen monetary policy. The Monetary Policy Committee should cut interest rates, and quickly.

Democracy is the pill for Russia's ills

BORIS YELTSIN has twice put his candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, before the Duma and twice been rebuffed. As prices rocket and emergency supplies of oil, rice and flour disappear from shops, Yeltsin appears still to misunderstand fundamentally the purpose of Russia's so-called democracy: to create stability for its people and its economy. His stubbornness is having the opposite effect.

Chaos reigns. Three weeks without an effective government have brought the country to its knees financially. And its people, whose average life expectancy has fallen 10 years since 1989, are being put through the mill once again; the oldest and weakest, unable to travel and barter, suffer the most.

But two things are clear. In the short term, the obvious path is to make someone - anyone - prime minister, with Yevgeny Primakov, the foreign minister, at the head of the list. The instinct is to inject short-term stability in order to deal with the economy. But this is to ignore the underlying problem - politics, not economics, is at the root of this mess, and, until the right person is found to be prime minister, no guarantees can be made for the rouble. The initial tragedy was in Yeltsin's failure to persuade the Duma that his package for the economy was correct. Persuasion is an essential democratic skill, and Yeltsin failed.

So in the longer term would it not be better to allow the Duma to do its job? Although constitutionally Yeltsin has the whip hand, the Duma's doubts about Chernomyrdin could not be better founded. In his previous stint as prime minister he presided over six years of corruption and war. Russia may have no democratic culture, but it isn't going to develop one unless respect is accorded to its democratic institutions.

Ignoring the Duma now would be to compound the economy's problems. More democracy, not less, is the beginning of the answer.

Hare today...

SO ONCE upon a time, perhaps in the days of Brer Rabbit, there was such a thing as a racing tortoise - now extinct. However, whereas the dangers that faced the dodo (bird that couldn't fly away from predators) and face the giant panda (can't reproduce) are obvious, the racing tortoise would appear to have a tiny natural advantage in its speed. So what happened? Presumably, after giving his long-eared friend a good drubbing, he collapsed and died of exhaustion or something...

Electoral reform should not be designed simply to stuff the Tories

I HAVE always had a soft spot for Roy Jenkins. Although he tried to destroy the party I love when he set up the SDE I am part of that first generation that was able to see all the salacious plays and films that became available following his liberalisation of the censorship laws.

But for all his political skill and wisdom he seems to be about to make the classic political mistake that has sunk so many people before him. Faced with two irreconcilable positions on proportional representation, it looks as though he has decided to split the difference.

According to leaks from his commission on the voting system, it seems he is going to recommend keeping first-past-the-post for about 500 constituencies and restrict proportional representation to about 100 additional MPs drawn from party-list-approved lists. As a sop to the PR lobby, he is going to change the first-past-the-post electoral system so that, instead of voting for the candidate of your choice, you have to list all the candidates on your ballot paper in descending order of preference and modify this. This compromise would have the result of annoying virtually everybody both for and against PR.

Studies which have run this system through the computer based on last year's general election show that Labour would still have won a majority of over 60 seats, even though we only got 43 per cent of the vote. But depending on how people cast their second ballot for the party list, it is quite possible that you could achieve the bizarre result that the Liberals would have become the official opposition with more MPs than the Tories, even

though they gained half the number of votes that the Tories did.

As someone who has supported PR ever since the 1974 elections discriminated so massively against the Liberals, I have always believed that if we are to change the voting system there has to be an honest and transparent logic justifying that change.

Roy Jenkins's proposals look like a simple device to permanently stiff the Tories, whilst giving the party leadership huge and undemocratic powers of patronage over the pecking order of candidates on the party list. As we have seen in the scandalous decision of Labour's NEC to deny Labour Party members any say in the ranking order of candidates in next year's PR elections to the European Parliament, such a system is open to favouritism on a grand scale and would inevitably lead to even more toadyism by Labour MPs desperate to keep in the leadership's good books.

What is so depressing about all this is that only three or four years ago, it looked as though the Labour Party was moving towards a consensus behind introducing PR along the lines of the German system, which guarantees that the number of seats in parliament for each party closely reflects the number of votes cast in the election. Since then, Labour's stunning landslide has caused a lot of PR's fair-weather friends to fall by the wayside. The ghastly manipulation of the process of selecting candidates for the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly - along with the great Euro-fiddle - has caused a lot of supporters of PR to question whether the benefits of a fair voting system would not be outweighed by the huge in-

KEN LIVINGSTONE
Roy Jenkins will mobilise both sides of the PR argument against his shabby compromise

crease in powers of patronage of the party machines.

Into this much less certain situation Roy Jenkins's proposals are the worst of all possible worlds. They aren't proportional and they allow party leaders to get rid of any MPs they find insufficiently obsequious. The result is that, rather like the Labour government's doomed proposals to reform the House of Lords in 1998, Roy Jenkins is going to mobilise both sides of the argument against the shabby compromise on offer.

It could all have been so different. There is a clear and simple defence of first-past-the-post in that it gives strong government with working majorities more often than not. To defeat this argument the alternative system has to be both genuinely fair and simple to understand. There must be a clear moral basis for any change - simply stuffing the Tories is

not good enough. Those of us who support PR have to be able to show that any new system will produce a parliament that more closely resembles the wishes of the British electorate than the present one.

Although I was converted to PR long before Mrs Thatcher appeared on the scene, she firmly reinforced my commitment. After 11 years of Mrs Thatcher I had all the strong government I needed for one lifetime. The idea that Mrs Thatcher, with just 43 per cent of the vote, could transform British society in such a damaging and destructive fashion whilst the majority of the population consistently voted against her is the strongest argument for change. Under genuine PR, governments would have to persuade and win the support of other parties in public debate, rather than be able to ram through unpopular measures like the poll tax and abolition of the GLC by having the whips drive the government's mindless majority through the lobbies night after night.

In the German system, each elector has two votes. The first is cast for a local constituency MP in a straight-forward first-past-the-post ballot. Half the MPs are elected in this way. The second vote is cast for the party that you wish to see form the government. Once all the second ballots have been counted, the remaining 50 per cent of MPs are allocated to each party in the proportion necessary to bring their total number of MPs up to the percentage of votes cast in the second ballot. The result is that in German elections, seats in parliament are usually within one per cent of the votes cast by the electorate. This means no

vote is ever wasted. For a Labour voter in Huntingdon, their vote is as likely to help elect a Labour MP as it is for one in Hackney. The position in which many voters decide not to vote in safe seats would no longer exist. The days of Labour voters having to vote Liberal in safe Tory seats and vice versa would be gone. At a stroke, elections become a positive exercise in which you can vote for the party you wish without wasting your vote, and the negativism that leads half the electorate against a party rather than positively for one, would be gone.

The downside to the German system is that the MPs elected with the second vote are drawn from party lists and therefore subject to patronage. As the Hansard Society pointed out as long ago as 1976, it would be perfectly easy, in allocating the top-up MPs, to select them on the basis of the most narrowly-defeated candidate of each party being top of the list for the additional members. At a stroke this would rob the party machines of any further patronage. Each additional member would have to have been selected by a local constituency, and to have fought as a candidate in the general election. In a country as large as Britain, it clearly makes sense that the top-up seats should be organised on a regional basis to ensure that each region of Britain is fairly represented.

I have no doubt that, left to his own devices, this is the system that Roy Jenkins would recommend. It is also the system the people of New Zealand voted for in two referenda and after years of debate. If we are going to change the voting system, let's get it right the first time, or the voters will lose patience.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Being Miss World is all about being feminine but you have got to have more than good looks and a good body. You also have to have brains."
Diana Hayden,
current Miss World

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Men's natures are alike; it is their habits that carry them far apart."
Confucius,
Chinese philosopher



WHO'S FAST WHEN IT COMES TO RAPID RESPONSE?

...THAT'S THE JOB OF THE AA

We are dedicated to getting to you quickly when you break down. With our advanced deployment technology our AA Patrols get to members, on average, in just 35 minutes. In fact, during July their average arrival time was just 29 minutes! And, with the world's largest patrol force, we fix more cars by the roadside than anyone else, getting you going again quickly and safely.

JOIN FROM £41

TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4th EMERGENCY SERVICE

VIKTOR CHERNOMYRDIN may not be the ideal choice for prime minister, but at this moment of political and economic peril he would be better than the volatile vacuum of power that now exists. His rejection for a third and final time in the days ahead would most likely lead Yeltsin to dissolve Parliament and call new elections later this year. Given Yeltsin's unsteady leadership, Russia cannot afford more months of political paralysis. The Communists and their allies may be bluffing, since many members of Parliament fear the loss of their seats and the privileges that come with them. But unlike earlier confrontations with Yeltsin, this time the Communists may sense electoral advantage in the growing economic turmoil and Yeltsin's unpopularity. It would not be the first time that the Communist Party tried to exploit economic hardship for its own advantage. Lenin perfected the strategy in 1917. *The New York Times*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the continuing political crisis in Russia

YELTSIN'S NOTORIOUS duplicity means parliamentarians are aware of the need to have concrete measures in place before approving Chernomyrdin. To do otherwise would allow the president to cheat them again. If Yeltsin were willing to compromise with elected representatives, the route out of the crisis would be so much simpler. *Moscow Times*

THE FAILURE on Monday of political leaders to take the first step towards halting the slide into greater economic crisis by agreeing on a new prime minister who could form a government which could begin to take control, has left Russians feeling dismayed and betrayed. Some of the hard-line Communists working to stop a government being formed are said to want a new revolution to return Russia to its Communist past. But few Russians appear to want that. Most simply want a government put in place which can begin dealing with the economic crisis before it becomes so bad that it destroys all the gains made since the fall of Communism. A break-up of Russia would be like the break-up of former Yugoslavia. But if this led to civil wars like those in Bosnia and Kosovo these would be civil wars with nuclear weapons. So it is not just the Russians who need a leader to emerge in Russia. So does the whole world. *Sydney Morning Herald*

TO JOIN OR RENEW CALL FREE 0800 444 999

EXT 6003
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
WWW.AA.CO.UK

PANDORA

SOME NEW Labour guests may have been slightly uneasy about the name of the venue, but they were putting up a brave front at Monday's One World Action charity evening at The Red Fort. A lavish spicy buffet was laid on by Amin Ali's trendy Indian restaurant, and duly attracted a huge queue of hungry politicians. The irony of this feast being served on behalf of a charity that aims to eliminate world poverty and hunger was not lost on one Labour politician. He quipped, "Ah well, another charity evening designed to make white people feel guilty."

THE JOKES continued after the last plate was scraped clean at The Red Fort. The newsreader Jon Snow hosted an entertainment that included the comedian John Hargy, plus some inept stage assistance from the former Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, who recited limericks. Later, speaking of Snow, Glens Kinnock brought down the house with his line: "When we look at you on Channel 4 News, we always know you're impartial and we love you for it." What a whopper.

HOWARD DONALD, former member of the defunct rock group Take That, is launching his new band at the In The City indie rock music convention in Manchester on 14 September. As Pandora's younger readers will recall, the break-up of the boy band was acrimonious. A press release from In The City seems to hint at this: "It is not known whether Robbie and Gary will turn up to support their old mate. If they do, security will be on hand to keep them apart."

THE WRITER Martin Jacques hosted a Marxism Today conference in Haslemere, Surrey, last weekend, attended by



eminent intellectuals of the left. A high point came when dynamic, thrusting Geoff Mulgan, the young Downing Street policy adviser, formerly of the think-tank Demos, modestly corrected the eminent historian Eric Hobsbawm on a point of - yes - history. Seminar followed seminar from Friday evening through to Sunday afternoon. By Saturday evening, some of the group were growing increasingly restive. During the post-dinner session, featuring Will Hutton and Anatole Kaletsky, a man named Richard Wilkinson, professor of social epidemiology at Sussex University, moved to an open rear window and nonchalantly leapt out, landing in some bushes. When Pandora contacted him yesterday, Wilkinson explained: "I did not want to disturb people at the front. It was pretty late, and I was tired." In his shoes, no doubt Pandora would have done exactly the same.

HIS FANS at Associated Newspapers are saying that the Evening Standard editor Max Hastings' luck has improved. Though he was off on holiday for such momentous unforeseen events as the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, his editor-in-chief David English and the owner Lord Rothermere, he was definitely in the office on Monday afternoon in time to deliver the coup de grâce to Adam Edwards, whom he sacked as editor of the paper's popular ES magazine. The reason for Edwards' abrupt departure seems to be Hastings' desire for a "new direction", although what that means remains unclear. A new editor is not expected to be appointed for at least a month. In the meantime, the mood around the ES offices is said to be "bemused".

THE LEGENDARY Irish writer and drinker Brendan Behan, who died in Dublin in 1964, may soon have his rambunctious life celebrated in a Hollywood biopic directed by Sean Penn (pictured) and starring - wait for it - Leonardo DiCaprio. Penn, who has had a bit of rowdy fun in his time, including a stint as Madonna's husband, has apparently been keen to enshrine Behan on film for some time, and wanted to play the leading role himself. However, according to the New York Post, Penn and DiCaprio have been going out on the town together a lot in recent weeks. Obviously impressed by DiCaprio's post-midnight stamina, Penn now sees Leonardo as a natural for the Behan role. Box-office considerations have nothing to do with it, of course.

An all-American lack of apology



PAUL SPIKE

Successful Americans have the constitutional right to refuse to feel embarrassed about anything

I understand Bill. I can "share his pain", at least for a few nanoseconds. When I first moved to London, people used to exclaim, "You're so aggressive!" I would blush at such flattery. Where Bill and I grew up, being aggressive is a high compliment. In American sports, politics, business, even the literary world: when the going gets tough, the tough really get going. Bill is nothing if not tough.

Our American culture was founded on the frontier myth, on Davy Crockett carving survival out of a Walt Disney wilderness. It's just not an "I'm sorry" culture. Successful Americans have the constitutional right to refuse to feel embarrassed about anything.

Embarrassment, however, is Britain's most common emotion. Soon after I arrived, another expatriate offered some invaluable advice. "If you want someone to like you in this country, tell them an anecdote about yourself that ends with the words, 'I was so embarrassed.' They'll immediately warm to you. Even if you weren't even slightly embarrassed at the time, just say it!"

I tested his advice and it worked like a charm. Now, of course, after more than two decades in Britain, I no longer have to fake it. I feel genuinely embarrassed from dawn to dusk.

Bill Clinton's glaring lack of embarrassment has been, I suspect, somewhat unimpressive for most British observers. But in this, Clinton is an outstanding example of his culture - he's a living embodiment

of American self-made political legends like Lincoln, Truman and Reagan. As Clinton grew up in a redneck Arkansas backwater, it made his rise to become "the most powerful man in the world" all the more American and legendary. It would be a miracle if he didn't believe his own myth.

Thus when Clinton finally managed to say "I'm sorry" in Dublin on Friday, the words staggered out of his mouth as if clamped to a twisted frame of rhetorical struts. "There is nothing that he [Senator Lieberman] or anyone else could say in a personally critical way that I don't imagine I would disagree with, since I have already said it myself to myself." Only then: "And I'm very sorry about it."

In Clinton's place, of course, most British men would be donning sunglasses and sinking off to Patagonia. Even a British politician like Jonathan Aitken felt it necessary to disappear from sight after his lies were exposed in court.

Until now Clinton's personal disgrace has not been a tragedy, but a travesty, the stuff of a thousand chat show sex jokes. But after Wall Street plummeted 500 points, American

chat show host David Letterman quipped, "Did you see what happened to the stock market today? It went down faster than a White House intern."

That joke - linking Clinton's sexual disgrace and America's economic bad news - must have made the White House spin doctors grate in panic. If Wall Street collapses, if American investors see their own profits melting away, Bill Clinton could be back in Arkansas for Christmas, unembarrassed, weeping and hugging his way right back into America's favour. Just like his predecessor Richard Nixon.

However Clinton's impeachment would be a huge embarrassment for Tony Blair. He would have to apologise to the British people for putting Britain's national reputation at Clinton's service, particularly after the missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan. Even more embarrassing, Blair would have to apologise to the Americans who follow Clinton into power. And, if the Republicans reclaim the White House in the 2000 election, I suspect Blair's "I'm sorry" will be answered with a very cold "Excuse me".

Sorry, Mr Hague, but voters are warming to the euro



JOHN CURTICE

By the next election, he could find Euroscepticism a much diminished pool in which to fish for votes

THE wake of the ERM crisis and once again after British beef was banned by the European Commission in the wake of the BSE crisis. Much of the trend towards Euroscepticism between 1992 and 1997 was simply the result of bad news about Europe.

Now that we have a government that is rather keener on conveying a positive image about Europe, there are already signs that public opinion is changing. According to Mori, 50 per cent might be opposed to a single currency now, but the same poll found as many as 64 per cent opposed two years ago. And an ICM poll found an eight-point rise in support for joining the euro immediately after the announcement last spring that the rest of Europe was going ahead.

The public thus appears open to persuasion on the euro. There is, after all, etched into the public mood a certain fatalism about the single currency, with as many as 70 per cent believing that the euro is fairly likely to be in use by, at least, 2010. If by the time of the next election, large sections of British

industry, the trade unions and, above all, the Government have come out in favour of Britain joining, Mr Hague could find Euroscepticism a much diminished pool in which to fish for votes.

Indeed, despite the depth of Euroscepticism within the Conservative Party in recent years, opposition to a single currency is noticeably lower among the Tories' traditional constituency - the middle class - than it is in Labour's working-class base. Opposing the euro might be a sensible marketing strategy for *The Sun*, but this does not necessarily mean it is also a good tactic for the Conservative Party.

But even if large sections of the public are still opposed to a single currency by the time of the next election, Hague's strategy will only work if the euro is a big enough issue for voters that it determines which way they vote. However, foreign affairs typically come well down the list of most voters' priorities. And in an important analysis of the *British Social Attitudes* survey, Geoffrey Evans, of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends, has shown that the party preferences of floating voters have little relationship with their attitudes to Europe.

However, it is whether the referendum will enable Hague to achieve his second objective - that is to change voters' perceptions of himself and his party - that is most open to doubt. Not that he is likely to lose the referendum. Surveys of party members undertaken at Sheffield University have confirmed what every party conference observer suspected - a deep vein of Euroscepticism among the party membership, with almost a two-to-one majority opposed to Britain joining the single currency in particular.

But numbered among the oppo-



William Hague is staking his ambitions on a euro referendum

nents of Hague's policy are some of the "big beasts" of the Conservative

jungle, including Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. When Blair called the Clause IV referendum, he did so with the backing of all his party's key players, including his deputy leader, John Prescott. Opposition only came from well outside the leadership circle. Blair's ballot was a chance to reveal a new unity of purpose in Labour's ranks. Hague's poll could simply reveal old divisions once more.

Moreover, Hague's aims could well be undermined by the apparent decision of at least some Europhiles in his party not to campaign in the referendum. The opponents of Clause IV campaigned and lost. If leading Tory supporters of a single currency, such as Clarke and Heseltine, do not campaign, then they will not be seen to have lost. Instead they may leave the Tory leader with the headache of convincing party members that it is

worthwhile casting their votes in an unexciting contest.

Indeed, perhaps the real analogy with Hague's move this week is not the Clause IV referendum, but rather John Major's even more dramatic decision to call a leadership election in the summer of 1995. Then only John Redwood dared to put his head above the parapet, and he ended up winning rather more votes than many had anticipated. Such an engineered contest left it very unclear whether John Major really was still the Tory MP's first choice. And, in practice, it certainly did nothing to end his party's divisions.

Hague may have his day of victory when the referendum result is declared. But whether it will take him closer to his goal of reaching 10 Downing Street must be in doubt.

The writer is the deputy director of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends

THE INDEPENDENT

PORTABLE LOW ENERGY HEATED TOWEL RACK - Just £39.95 inc p&p

SAVE £10 ON THE MRRP

Now you can have warm dry towels at the same running costs of a normal light bulb. With summer here the central heating is either being turned down or off completely, and it's even more vital to have a low cost alternative. This new low energy towel rack uses just 80 watts of electricity - a fraction of the running costs of a conventional heated rack, and is completely portable. Just plug it into any convenient 13 amp socket anywhere around the house. Apart from towels, it could also be a real boon if you want to dry clothing or bedding that's just been washed. The attractive white rack can be permanently wall-mounted using the wall fixing brackets supplied (we recommend fitting it to a qualified electrician).

Manufactured in the EC to the highest quality and safety standards, this superb heated rack is available to the readers for just £39.95 including delivery - a £10 saving on the MRRP.



HOW TO ORDER (UK residents only) Fill in the coupon quoting your ACCESS/VISA card number or send with cheque or postal order. NO CASH. TO: THE INDEPENDENT TOWEL RACK OFFER, TRUEBELLE HOUSE, LOMBARD ROAD, LONDON SW14 7JZ. Or call the CREDIT CARD ORDER HOTLINE ON 0181 540 9696

ACCESS/VISA welcome. Please quote ref. IND744. Allow 28 days for delivery. Subject to availability. If you are not fully satisfied return within 7 days for a full refund.

Please send me: Towel Rack £39.95 each inc p&p I enclose a crossed cheque/PO for £ (address on back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING LTD/44 or debit my Access/VISA account by this amount. My card number is:

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Post Code: _____

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT TOWEL RACK OFFER, TRUEBELLE HOUSE, LOMBARD ROAD, LONDON SW14 7JZ.

Please tick the box if you do not wish to be on our mailing list or receive other offers from Newspaper Publishing Ltd or companies approved by them.

IND744

Newspaper Publishing PLC Registered at England No. 100967

Room for a new mass workers' party

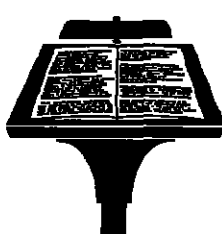
IN THIS room today, we've brought together a significant number of active socialists together with MEPs, trades unionists, former Labour Party members and those involved in green and direct action. We already have several thousand members of our constituent bodies, but now we're here to discuss how to bring that number closer together in campaigning for socialist change.

With Clinton bombing Sudan and Afghanistan, the Russian economy in free fall and daily examples of the Blair government embracing the free market, this launch conference of the Network of Socialist Alliances is most timely. The developing British and world economic recession will cause more and more people to question the present order and to look for an alternative. For a growing number, the Labour Party is no longer a true representative of working-class families, and its abandonment of socialism means that it is wedded to the same economic policies as those of the previous government. The only real difference seems to be that those policies

are now carried out with a smile rather than a snarl.

But what has dogged previous attempts to build a fresh alternative to the big business policies of all the main parties has been a top-down, command organisation and exclusion rather than inclusivity. This network must learn from that. We could, in my view, have 80 per cent common ground on the key policies on the economy, the environment, the rebuilding of public services and action against discrimination, while agreeing to put into their proper context the 20 per cent of differences we have between us. Let us use that 80/20 rule to go forward to build an inclusive alliance that concentrates on the things that unite us, rather than those which divide us. Then we could offer a real alternative to the failed pro-capitalist policies of the three main parties.

There's in fact a growing disillusionment among key sections of the population about politics in general. In one opinion poll before last year's election, 23 per cent felt that there was no difference between Labour and Tory and 43 per cent felt that the election would



PODIUM

DAVE NELLIST
From a speech by the
joint convenor to the
conference of the
Network of Socialist
Alliances in Rugby

make little or no difference to their lives. I do not see those percentages diminishing. That is a huge constituency for us to aim for. And already we can see modest success.

In this year's council elections there were a number of successful candidates from among our ranks, and one calculation shows that more than 250,000 people voted either red or green in May. One of our jobs today is to begin the discussion

on common slates for next year's Euro-elections. Tony Blair has already said that those elections will be a mid-term test of his government, and we need to make sure that working people have a genuine electoral alternative to Maastricht and monetary union designed for big business's benefit.

We also need to campaign harder on domestic issues, for example, the minimum wage. The £2.60 an hour proposed by the Government is woefully inadequate for the millions in low-paid work. In fact it is 5 per cent less than the average rate paid by the Wages Council before the Tories abolished it seven years ago.

I have often been accused of proposing confiscation when suggesting that salaries above £100,000 a year should be taxed at 100 per cent. But the low-pay trap is just as Draconian. For a couple with two children living in rented accommodation, every £1 rise in wages between about £90 and £190 a week means that family pays extra tax and national insurance, and loses family credit, housing and council tax benefits, to the tune of 97p in the pound. It's

not until a minimum wage reaches the European decency threshold of 26 an hour that that family will see real benefit, instead of the Treasury. The gross inequalities in wealth and income, greater now than at any time since 1886, call out for us to take up the mantle of repopularising the ideas of socialism. We should aim to collect through street stalls and public meetings a petition of 1 million signatures calling for a decent minimum wage, which we could link to the national demonstration on low pay which Union is organising.

There's a vacuum in British politics that cries out for a new mass workers' party committed to fundamental social and political change. The Network of Socialist Alliances will seek to offer support to all those involved in campaigns against social and environmental injustice, but above all we will fight for an alternative to the global, unregulated free market, and for redirecting society's wealth to people's needs. We are establishing a broad organisation that is committed to those aims and open to all.

JANISCO LTD

The irresistible rise of curves



SUZANNE MOORE

Do I want to get my hands on one of these groovy-looking objects? Yes, I do

HAVING SPENT the entire weekend discussing the possible collapse of capitalism, as you do, at a special Marxism Today weekend, I was struck upon my return by sheer unadorned consumer lust. Obviously I am as concerned as the next woman about the imminent global recession but what I want, what I really, really want is one of those new iMac computers from Apple. You may have seen them on the posters. They are those curvy, sexy-looking machines. They have ergonomic keyboards and a spherical little mouse. God, they're gorgeous.

It's not just me. Both my daughters are hankering after the iMac. "Mum, have you seen the mouse? It's just so sweet."

"You are not having a computer that costs £1,000," I say sternly, all the time thinking that maybe I could get one myself and then off-load my old Mac on to them.

In fact, none of us needs one of these things. I use a computer as little more than a typewriter. My flirtations with the Internet and e-mail have proved immensely unrewarding. Do I want to talk to someone in Oregon about whether ketchup is better than mustard? No, not really. Do I want to read on screen badly written rubbish that I would never consider reading on a page? Do I want to engage in the kind of stunted conversation that e-mailing involves? No way.

But do I want to get my hands on one of these groovy-looking objects? Yes, I do.

It's always peculiar to feel yourself being manipulated and yet at the same time responding. Just as I can find myself crying during a bad movie or even, these days, a mini-series, it is possible to feel yourself being exploited and loving it. Theoretically I may be able to distinguish between want and need, but emotionally - forget it. Poor little manipulated me, a puppet on a string. Where is my guiding star? Where is my scepticism?

The iMac, after all, is not so brand-new when looked at in the design context of the last few years. We should not be amazed that we finally have a computer that is not a beige box, but, instead ask what took us so long. Isn't this just a sign



These ultra-desirables (clockwise from above), the iMac, the Ford Ka and the Smeg fridge, are designed to appeal to our lust for rounded, 'feminine' consumer durables

of how conservative, how limited, how uninspired the driving forces behind the information revolution have been?

OK, so perhaps they were so busy conquering the world with interactive software that they paid scant attention to the look of the actual things that were to colonise our homes. Years ago I remember some nerd telling me that computers had to be beige because of something to do with the way that the light reflected. As all television sets at the time were black, I never understood this argument.

It has been clear for some time, though, that the "wired community" and its hologram of a representative, Bill Gates, have very little aesthetic sense whatsoever. Gates, don't forget, is the man who thinks that looking at a beautiful painting on a computer screen is the same as seeing it in the flesh.

Yet, of course, we do want flesh, or things that remind us of flesh - organic, natural, roundy shapes. This simple idea has made Philippe Starck's career, and a few others' too. For some time now designers have been using these more tactile shapes and materials, but it is only now that they are hitting the mainstream. Jelly kettles, and Smeg

fridges and Ford's Ka, all employ these new lines. Square now is really too square, and even everyday consumer durables such as washing machines are designed with more fluid lines.

The iMac - note that lower case "i", which implies wacky user-friendliness - was designed by a Brit, Jonathan Ive, who was once a partner in the design company Tangerine. He worked in conjunction with a firm that had previously paid enormous attention to the colours involved in producing translucent sweets.

The iMac, then, is designed to stimulate all kinds of taste-buds, but above all to illicit a more human response to a machine than usual. This is not just a touchy-feely object but a touchy-fondly Tamagotchi for grown ups. You won't, apparently, feel embarrassed about having one in your living-room. The thing is, though, if your living-room looks like the average living-room then this candy-coloured computer will look very strange indeed. Most people have invested heavily in television sets and video-recorders and music systems which are not see-through turquoise plastic but are in fact black, matt and as box-like as it is possible to be.

Never mind "Chuck out your chintz"; really you should be chucking out your black, hard-edged objects, which are as Eighties as padded shoulders. Now we want furry fridges and orange fluorescent television sets on purple stand. Believe me, I have seen the future at student design shows, at colleges such as Central St Martin's.

The Italians have been doing this sort of stuff for a decade, trying to "humanise" design because so many of us couldn't really cope with pure, hard-edged modernism. If you want an image of the way it's all going, I would say think *Tele-tubbies*; think childish, soft, huggable shapes. Think fun not function. Think nature, but nature as seen in a Technicolor theme park.

All of this is yet another example of what some would like to call the increasing "feminisation" of society. While the Eighties was all angular shapes and power dressing, the Nineties, belatedly defining itself as a decade as it comes to an end, is more fluid and organic and colourful. Is this feminine, I ask myself? Or is it just another form of repackaging?

The lust for softer, curvier forms may be described as feminised, but realists among us may note that

it has nothing to do with the shapes of those other objects of desire - women's bodies. In design terms the idealised female form is elongated, minimal and straight up and down. Gwyneth Paltrow and Courtney Cox are the role models, not Kate Winslet or Alicia Silverstone, who are considered to be too curvy for their own good.

This is just another example of the word "feminisation" being used about something that has little to do with women themselves. Design has not become more feminine; it has simply wised up to the fact that if we are to live with certain products we would like them to be easier on the eye.

We can use words like "ergonomic" and "organic" and even, if we so desire, believe that curvy computers will enable us to do something fundamentally different to square old PCs - but they probably won't. Every time I buy my elder daughter another expensive item of clothing that has something to do with surfing, I have an argument with her about the fact that she never goes surfing, or has any intention of ever doing so. No, it's important that she has a watch that she can wear "in a tunnel", because it just looks good.

Advanced capitalism depends on built-in obsolescence. Why don't washing machines, for instance, ever work for longer than six years? Why do we all put up with the shoddiness of so many hi-tech goods that fail and can never be repaired? Why? Because design is a more effective form of built-in obsolescence than anything else.

By the time the thing stops working we don't bloody want it any more anyway. It just looks so wrong, so old-fashioned. The machine I'm writing this on is the ugliest thing I've ever seen. It is completely without style. Only a few years ago I was delighted with my brand-new Macintosh; it did stuff I had no idea a computer could do. Since then I have realised I don't want to do most of that stuff, but I would like the machine itself to be prettier.

At a time when we may be in the throes of a global recession I think we can truly define "inappropriate behaviour" as greed for things that we don't need but simply want. I spent the weekend both excited and worried that capitalism was in total crisis because of its own internal contradictions. It has only taken one advertising campaign to make me realise that capitalism is not going to collapse. Not in my house anyway.

RIGHT OF REPLY

THOMAS CAREY

A Roman Catholic RE teacher reacts to our story on Audrey Santo, reputed to work miracles

JOSEPH GALLIVAN'S touching article about "Little Audrey" (29 August) was interesting and well balanced. It nevertheless managed to trot out some clichés about Roman Catholics, not least by implying that we regularly indulge in an obsessive search for miracles. Neither Roman Catholics nor members of other religious groups have any monopoly of the puzzlingly astonishing.

The cult of the unexplained is presently enjoying an active media existence. Just ask Michael Aspel, Paul McKenna or Carol Vorderman.

Miracles point to God at work. There is always the danger of fraudulent misrepresentation of divine activity. No religion has any business promoting specious methods of increasing the faith of its adherents, including doing so through the promotion of suspect miracles. Religion, which is ultimately about enabling people to experience the divine, is much too important for such dubious practices.

However, if we assume that it is God who acts directly to create miraculous situations, how could we ever prove satisfactorily that it was, in fact, God who was at work? What objective test or evidence could we appeal to?

A major difficulty is, of course, that there is no agreed definition as to what constitutes a miracle. We generally assume that a miracle must be spectacular or dramatic in form. The fact is that miracles are neither provable nor refutable from the outside. Like beauty, they are in the eye of the beholder. They are something that may be recognised only with the eye of faith.

Coming from the Latin *miraculum*, meaning something wonderful, the word denotes an extraordinary happening, but not everything that is remarkable serves to augment or develop faith. Few of life's many strange events may compete for recognition as miracles. I do not feel the need for the dramatic or the spectacular to support my faith. Existence itself is sufficiently wonderful to allow me to stand in awe of the Creator.

High life with Edward the Caresser

MOST CROWNED heads are stuffed with nonsense. Sometimes nature is to blame: royal inbreeding, the ultimate form of snobbery, is not conducive to intellectual sophistication. Often nature is at fault: a palace upbringing seldom equips its recipients to think about any question graver than (to quote Thackeray) "the button for a waistcoat or the sauce for a partridge". Yet such is the mystique of monarchs that they are not only flattered



in life but receive undue deference after death. This usually takes the form of exaggerating their qualities and mitigating their vices, in the manner of

WEDNESDAY BOOK

POWER AND PLACE: THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF KING EDWARD VII
BY SIMON HEFFER, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £25

Gold Nibs in Waiting such as Harold Nicolson and Roger Fulford. But some writers, not content to inflate majesty, imbue their royal subjects with spurious might.

Andrew Sinclair, for example, produced a sadly misguided book depicting Queen Victoria as the head of a European spy-ring in which her children acted as royal agents. Now, in the same vein, Simon Heffer presents us with Edward VII as sovereign diplomat - a King who "for long periods acted as his own foreign secretary".

Far from being a mere dabbler in politics, as historians have assumed, Edward was, in Heffer's view, the last British monarch to enjoy the "whole-sale exercise of true political power". Admittedly, he was not a "gifted intellectual" and his "high-profile role" was played "mostly out of the public eye". But it involved exercising "de facto control over the reform of the army" and taking the "initiative in international alliances".

Ministers often claimed credit for policies that the king, "in his roving diplomatic role, had instigated, shaped and executed". The most important of these was "the abandonment of the Salisburian ideal of 'splendid isolation', and its replacement by a system of alliances with foreign powers, notably the *entente cordiale* with France in 1904".

Heffer is no fool. He has read well, if not widely. He was given access to the Royal Archives and makes good use of his research. He writes grammatically, though not epigrammatically.

In what reads like a potboiler, he sustains his argument manfully. Yet the evidence against it is so overwhelming that one has to conclude that this is an exceptionally foolish book.

Edward lacked even the limited capacity required to be a politician. As a child he was described as not "normally intelligent" and though he learnt a lot about clothes, food, protocol and genealogy, he proved impervious to any real education. He could never concentrate, grasp details or cope with paperwork.

He was shatteringly indiscreet, quite capable of handing a confidential Foreign Office briefing to the Kaiser and passing private notes from his ministers round the dinner table. They retaliated by keeping him in the dark as much as possible.

They also complained about having to listen to "royal twaddle". Gladstone's view was shared by Salisbury, Balfour and Asquith. Edward had a "total want of political judgement, either inherited or acquired".

Edward was primarily interested in amusement, not politics. A "corpulent voluptuary" (Kipling's phrase), he loved wine, women and song, gambling, sailing and racing. As one of his private secretaries complained, they had to "catch snap answers from him as he goes out shooting etc. Then he runs off to Trouville where of course business is impossible."

Nothing was allowed to interrupt the fixed social round, not even the resignation of a Prime Minister. Campbell-Bannerman's successor had to travel to Biarritz to kiss hands. A June

general election, Edward considered, was "a most untoward event in the middle of the London season". As Margot Asquith observed, the King "devotes what time he does not spend upon sport and pleasure ungrudgingly to duty".

It is ludicrous to dignify Edward's whoring, gourmandising trips abroad as diplomatic missions. Certainly, he did much in the way of smiling and waving to improve relations with France. But his efforts, which were not more important than those of *The Times*, have been magnified by toadies then and later.

The *entente cordiale* did not stem from royal mediation. It was the product of hard political and economic calculation in Westminster and Whitehall about Britain's exposed position, notably *vis-à-vis* Germany, after the Boer War.

As E C K Ensor said in a proleptic demolition of the case advanced by Heffer (to which he does not refer), the King's constant absences abroad weakened monarchical influence at home. Here Edward did have a certain political nuisance value, especially since he fussed obsessively about promotions and decorations. But his interference - the attempt, for example, to stop soldiers exchanging red-coats for "hideous khaki" - was almost invariably futile.

By ability and inclination, Edward VII was a largely ornamental monarch. This was fortunate since most of the ideas that did find lodgement in what his mother called "that painfully small head" were reactionary to the point of absurdity. However tempting it may be to glamourise this dim royal routé as Edward the Peacemaker, the fact is that he did far more to earn the other nickname by which contemporaries knew him - Edward the Caresser.

PIERS BRENDON

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Steam Train by Tim Pilsen

Ref 00101

TO ORDER A 12"x9" PRINT OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH PLEASE SEND

A CHEQUE, FOR £15 MADE PAYABLE TO THE INDEPENDENT

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND

QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER UNDERNEATH THE

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHS,

THE INDEPENDENT, 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF,

LONDON E14 5DL

(ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY)

Photographs published in The Independent can be purchased by calling Independent Photographs on 0171-293 2534, subject to copyright and availability

WEDNESDAY POEM

GHAZAL

ADAPTED FROM MAKHDOOM MOHIUDDIN
BY AGHA SHAHID ALI

Rumors of spring - they last from dawn to dusk -
All eyes decipher branches for blossoms.

Your legend now equals our thirst, Belovéd -
Your word had spread across broken nations.

Wherever each night I'm lost to myself,
they hear from me of her - of Her alone.

Hope extinguished, now nothing else remains -
only nights of anguish, these ochre dawns.

The garden's eyes well up, the flower's heart beats
when we speak, just speak of O! Forever

So it has, and forever it should last -
this rumor the Belovéd shares our pain.

This poem comes from the Kashmiri-American poet
Agha Shahid Ali's new collection, *The Country Without a Post Office*
(W W Norton, £8.50)

Race relations: Pessimism among black Britons is growing in the shadow of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry

Blacks 'expect racism to get worse'

GEORGE MCPHERSON is no stranger to racial abuse. After arriving in Britain 50 years ago in the first wave of Jamaican immigrants, he was fully exposed to the prejudice of the more ignorant sections of the native population.

But he does not regret his decision to board the SS *Windrush* and make his life in the "mother country". Settled in Birmingham and married for 47 years to an English wife, he believes his proud Jamaican identity helped to protect him

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

from the bigots. "We knew where we came from. Whatever happened to us, whatever was said to us, we could think back in our hearts to our homes and our families. We knew who we were and we were proud of that knowledge," he said. "We were prepared to shrug off prejudice. We took a lot of hassle. Today's kids won't take that."

The level of discontent among second and third

generation Afro-Caribbeans was underlined yesterday by a new study, which found that 79 per cent of young blacks felt race relations in Britain would get worse in the next five years.

That is in stark contrast with the white community, which appears to be overcoming the concerns of a generation ago and accepting the idea of a multi-racial society.

Researchers from the University of Warwick found 41 per cent of whites thought race relations would improve over

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Race relations in the next five years (Age group 18-24)

Ethnic Group	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
White	16	38	39	7
Black	7	75	14	4
Asian	9	50	36	5
Other	5	57	33	5

the next five years, and only 12 per cent thought they would deteriorate. The gap of opinion

between black and white comes against the background of an inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager who was stabbed in a racial attack in 1993.

The inquiry has shone a spotlight on racial attitudes within the police service and exposed evidence of discrimination. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said he was shocked to find that black people are up to eight times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than whites.

A report by Statewatch, a police research group, found that blacks were stopped at a rate of 155 per 1,000 compared with 34 for whites and 47 for Asians. In Merseyside, the number of black people stopped was 189 per 1,000. The greatest racial difference was in Surrey, where blacks were eight times more likely to be targeted. Mr Straw said the findings were "a matter of concern".

Despite a series of initiatives by the Home Office to combat racial crime, there has been no

impact on the number of race attacks during the past decade.

In the past three years there have been 866 serious racial assaults, 482 arsons, five attempted murders and nine murders. At the same time, job opportunities for black workers - which improved between 1984 and 1990 - worsened again.

Yet Chris Myant of the Commission for Racial Equality said there was increasing harmony among younger people. He said: "Younger people are at home with a multi-racial society.

Their music, sport and cultural life is all multi-racial."

The Trinidad-born broadcaster Dariusz Howe said: "We feel much more at ease in this country. My younger children, now 12 and 13, are much more self-assured than their bigger brothers and sisters were at that age."

But Mr Howe said the future of race relations depended much on economic factors. He criticised findings based on the questioning of individuals as "vulgar speculation".

'It's a case of us and them'

CHERYL JONES, 19, is studying law at Downing College, Cambridge. She is optimistic about her own professional prospects, but said there was a noticeable difference in the way black and Asian people were perceived in the two areas in which she moved - and a noticeable difference in the prospects for improvements in race relations.

"I think my perception is that there is a difference between the ordinary person in the street and in academic and business circles," she said yesterday.

"Where I am at Cambridge in the academic and business circles, I definitely think it is getting better, racism is definitely going down. But for the ordinary person in the street the situation is not changing."

"I come from a reasonably poor area of Birmingham and the situation is still pretty much the same among white counterparts in the area that I live in. They are still quite racist."

Miss Jones believes the difference is down to class and education. "I would say it's an educational thing. But I think the boundaries are drawn much clearer in working-class districts. It tends to be very much an 'us-and-them' situation," she said.

"Whereas, when you get to the middle and upper classes



Cheryl Jones sees less racism at college than where she grew up. Kalpesh Lathigra

the opinions formed tend to be based more on what your academic ability is, and race starts to matter a lot less."

While her white colleagues and lecturers were more articulate in describing and com-

ing to terms with the problem of racism, she said she felt it was only surface treatment, a veneer that needed to go deeper before the underlying problems were addressed.

Despite the apparent softening in establishment racist at-

titudes Miss Jones was concerned by the lack of representation of black, Asian and Chinese faces in the upper echelons of her chosen profession.

"It is noticeable that you don't see many, isn't it?" she said.

'Colour can be a help to me'

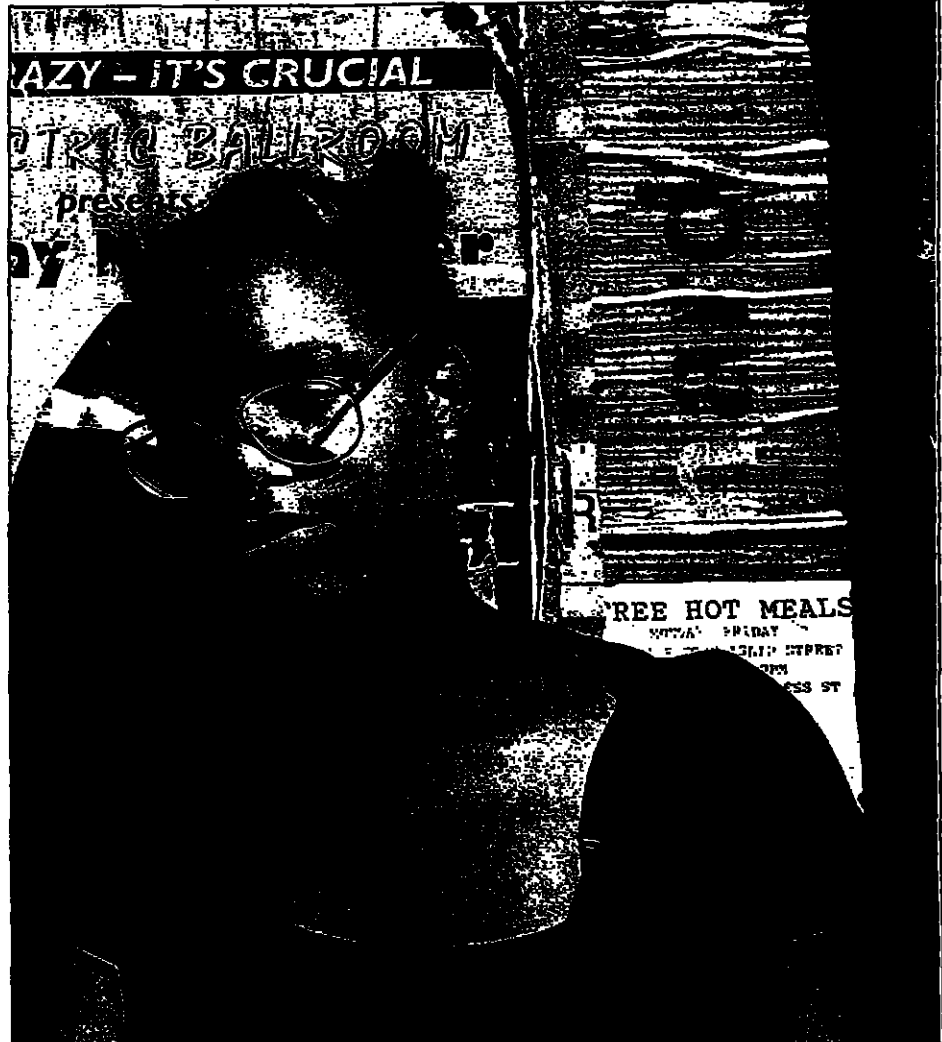
ESTHER LISK-CAREW, reading law with French at Liverpool University, says she is unconvinced by rhetoric that tells her black and white candidates have equal chances, despite her own bright future.

"In legal circles I have found conflicting messages," Ms Lisk-Carew, from Birmingham, said. "I found a lot of stereotyping when I went to do my work experience. I heard a lot of stories about black and Asian lawyers and how it is a lot harder for them to get work."

She acknowledged that there were attempts to overcome any potential discrimination. "I have been encouraged to join schemes set up to help Asian and African lawyers to get ahead and get advanced in areas like business," Ms Lisk-Carew, 19, said. Groups such as the Society of Asian Lawyers, a networking club, worked hard to place and promote Asians in the legal profession.

"I did take some encouragement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where I would like to work. They saw it as a positive aspect that I was a woman and that I was black."

Miss Lisk-Carew, whose family is from Sierra Leone, said: "I feel that as a young black person it is a lot more difficult to get away from the



Esther Lisk-Carew says many people face discrimination daily. Kalpesh Lathigra

barriers, primarily because you tend to be in a 'black community' where these barriers do raise their head more readily. People tend to stereotype groups and so membership of that group raises its own particular problems. As a group,

young black people are not necessarily being helped at all. In the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, it became evident that he was seen typically as a young black man who could possibly be threatening, which is not the point because he was the one

who was the victim of crime. "Mostly the racism that occurs is something that I can ignore but there are a lot of people I know who suffer it on a daily basis."

CASE STUDIES
BY GARY FINN

The UK's Best Buy for DVD

333M-II DVD FamilyPC

- 333 MHz (48-49) New Superfast 8M processor
- 128MB high performance SDRAM
- Massive 20.1GB Ultra DMA-33 hard disk
- ASP2 3D graphics with 4MB SGRAM
- TV-OUT facility for large screen televisions
- 15" SVGA (1,280) colour monitor
- 50K Rockwell vocal/fax/modem/modem
- 3D variable stereo sound
- DVD-ROM II drive (also functions as fast CD-ROM)
- DVD decoder and MPEG-1 software
- Lord of the Rings DVD movie included
- Educational SATS software bundle
- ENA Verbalis Executive Speech Recognition
- Microsoft Windows 98 with manuals and CD
- FREE 20MB of top quality software including Lotus SmartSuite, Microsoft, MSP, Salsa and Norton Antivirus
- FREE Epson 400 Colour Printer
- FREE A4 Colour Thermal scanner (RPP £119)

All Standard Features. Free 30 day interest free, 0% APR special system. Windows 98 and PSP version July year 2000 complete and 100% satisfaction rate. 90 return VHS video/television guide. 14 day money back guarantee. Product code: 333M-II DVD 17" 485 17" 485 17" 485

Great Value! Includes: 333MHz Superfast 8M processor, 128MB high performance SDRAM, Massive 20.1GB Ultra DMA-33 hard disk, ASP2 3D graphics with 4MB SGRAM, TV-OUT facility for large screen televisions, 15" SVGA (1,280) colour monitor, 50K Rockwell vocal/fax/modem/modem, 3D variable stereo sound, DVD-ROM II drive (also functions as fast CD-ROM), DVD decoder and MPEG-1 software, Lord of the Rings DVD movie included, Educational SATS software bundle, ENA Verbalis Executive Speech Recognition, Microsoft Windows 98 with manuals and CD, FREE 20MB of top quality software including Lotus SmartSuite, Microsoft, MSP, Salsa and Norton Antivirus, FREE Epson 400 Colour Printer, FREE A4 Colour Thermal scanner (RPP £119)

Pay Nothing Until Sept 99 NO Deposit NO Payments NO Interest

TIME
we're on your side

0800 771107

MP in sleaze case tells of 'knives in my back'

THE LABOUR Party tribunal investigating allegations of detrimental conduct by the suspended MP Tommy Graham began yesterday in an atmosphere of bitter recrimination.

Mr Graham, MP for West Renfrewshire, said there had been a systematic "conspiracy" against him, and added that if the National Constitutional Committee hearing expels him from the party he will continue to sit as an MP working for his constituents and aiming to clear his name.

Mr Graham arrived for yesterday's hearing, at Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, proclaiming his innocence. "I've been waiting long enough for this," he said. "I am desperate to get in there and get the ball rolling."

"I'm now going to have my say for the first time in 12 months. I'm confident I'll get acquitted."

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

The MP said the past year had been the most "horrible" of his life, and claimed his critics were motivated by personal ambition, spite, animosity, and his "old Labour" image.

"I might not be the image they would like..." he said. "My back is full of knives. However, they will not remain there that long."

Mr Graham was suspended from Labour's parliamentary ranks last year after the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, whose death brought out into the open years of acrimony and faction-fighting within Labour's ranks in Renfrewshire.

Although Mr Graham was cleared of allegations that he had smeared Mr McMaster, he went on to face accusations of acting in a way prejudicial to Labour's interests, and the affair became the focus of damaging allegations of Labour "sleaze" in its urban Scottish heartland.

Yesterday's disciplinary hearing was held behind closed doors, with party officials refusing to give details of the five charges against Mr Graham.

They are believed to include an allegation about offering sexually compromising photographs of a trade union official in return for information, "bad mouthing" fellow MPs - including Irene Adams, the member for Paisley North - and a catch-all charge of acting in a way prejudicial to the party.

Party sources claimed last week that the case against Mr Graham was cast-iron and that he would become the first MP to be expelled by the Labour Party since the militants Dave Nellist and Terry Field in 1991.

But a dispute between potential witnesses and a feeling that the evidence might be rather thin caused some back-peddalling yesterday, with speculation that Mr Graham's punishment - if he is found guilty - might be limited to a further short suspension. He has already been suspended since last August.

The tribunal is expected to announce its decision today.

Whatever the verdict, the saga is likely to be a continuing embarrassment for Labour.

If Mr Graham is expelled, he intends to seek to overturn the decision through the civil courts and he will still remain a member of the House of Commons. If he is acquitted, or dealt with leniently, other MPs and senior figures in the Labour movement will have in effect been branded liars.

Forestry turns over a new leaf

THE FORESTRY Commission is to make a radical break with its past by cutting down 300,000 mature trees to create a nature reserve.

The commission will clear 300 acres of Corsican pines from Whitbarrow, a fell in the Lake District, and return it to its former glory as a limestone grassland rich in rare flowers and butterflies.

It is a departure for a body that a decade ago was regularly accused of ruining the landscape by planting massed rows of dark conifers across Britain. But its remit has been broadened in recent years and now includes a duty to conservation and to the landscape as well as timber production.

Limestone grassland, which supports many rare plants and insects, is an internationally im-

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

portant habitat and Whitbarrow is one of the best examples in Britain. It is home to uncommon flowers such as the limestone bedstraw and Britain's fastest-declining butterfly, the small pearl-bordered fritillary.

The felling will also remove the inappropriate "Mohican haircut" the trees appear to give the fell, which lies near Kendal and is visible from the main road into the Lake District from the south.

The pines are not ready for proper timber harvest and the commission, which planted them 30 years ago, will only cover its costs in felling them. Whitbarrow is to be declared a National Nature Reserve at the end of this week.

VIAGRA CORNER

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

ADVERTISING watchdogs have launched a clampdown on companies advertising Viagra or products given a similar name, days before the drug is expected to be licensed in Britain.

A spokesman for the Advertising Standards Authority said: "Viagra has become the most written and talked about medicine for a long time. One inevitable result of this coverage is an advertising bandwagon, with companies clamouring to advertise Viagra or imitations of it."

One advertisement details the alleged virtues of a drug called Vigorex under the headline "Finally available in the UK. The potency pill that swept America."

That advertisement is the subject of an investigation, the spokesman said.

He added: "What we are doing is warning advertisers that if they try to pass off something as Viagra or try to sell it direct despite it not being licensed there will be problems."

NEW REVIEW
1 September 1998

Charlie Feathers

MUCH HAS been made of the professional jealousy Salieri felt for his contemporary Mozart. A 20th-century equivalent is the way Charlie Feathers regarded Elvis Presley.

To hear him talk, you might think that Feathers created the rockabilly sound of the early Sun Records, gave Buddy Holly his hiccup, encouraged Carl Perkins to sing "Blue Suede Shoes", taught Jerry Lee Lewis how to play piano, and a whole lot more besides. Charlie Feathers was a legend in his own mind and if a reporter challenged his memories, he would say, "You do want this interview, don't you, boy?" Researchers have poured scorn on Feathers' claims but he was in Memphis at the crucial time, even if no one took much notice of him.

Feathers was born of Irish and Cherokee descent in 1932 into the rural community of Myrtle, just outside Holly Springs, Mississippi. He was influenced by the black babysitter who tended him as a child, and he learnt to play the guitar from a black sharecropper. After leaving school at the age of 10, in future years he could write little more than his name.

The family moved to Memphis and when Feathers was laying pipelines in 1949, his pipedreams took control and he determined to become a professional musician. He played in honky-tonk bars, but he also suffered for many months from spinal meningitis, which only strengthened his resolve.

Feathers befriended Sam Phillips, the owner of Sun Records, and would have you believe that he took artist control of the label, "I brought Elvis to Sun Records in 1953, man. Not only did I get him there, but I got him doing rockabilly. Bill Monroe had done 'Blue Moon of Kentucky' but I showed Elvis how to do it his way, so I arranged that record. I didn't play on it but I was at the controls." Feathers also claims to have played on Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes", but in truth, his sessions consisted of playing spoons for the Miller Sisters.

It was the steel guitarist Stan Kesler who wrote "I Forgot To Remember To Forget", yet Feathers, having recorded Elvis's demonstration record of it, also received a composing credit; he later claimed to have written the song around Kesler's title. "I Forgot To Remember To Forget" topped the US country charts for five weeks - 43 weeks, according to Feathers - and Elvis moved to RCA and international stardom.

"The Elvis I knew died in 1955," said Charlie glumly. "They didn't know how to record Elvis and I did. The band he had when he died was a dime a dozen band, and the Memphis Mafia wasn't his friends, they were just his bodyguards."

Elvis Presley's early success prompted Sam Phillips to start a country-music subsidiary, a non-union label, Flip, in early 1956. Feathers' first single was an intense country ballad, "I've Been Deceived", coupled with the bluegrass "Peepin' Eyes", but he wanted to sing up-tempo rockabilly music. "Rockabilly is hard to control because there's a lot of jumping up and down and a lot of highs and lows," Feathers told me in 1991, adding, "Buddy Holly would listen to me and he wanted to get on Sun, man. Then he went to Clovis, New Mexico and died 'Peggy Sue'. A lot of people say we sound alike, but he heard me do the hiccup, so who copied who?"



Charlie Feathers and His Musical Warriors (Feathers with guitar) in the early 1950s. Gems / Redferns

Feathers sounds like Buddy Holly on speed. He sings faster, hiccups at a furious pace and goes into ad libitum whines. His whoops and hollers are often hysterically funny, though this was never his intention. After Sun Records, he recorded some key rockabilly sides for King Records including "Bottle To The Baby", "Everybody's Lovin' My Baby" and the frenzied "One Hand Loose", which features an intense exchange between Feathers and his lead guitarist. The song eventually became a rockabilly anthem and is as much about being free-spirited as it is about dancing.

Few of Charlie Feathers' records were released in the UK and none of his songs were picked up by the British beat groups of the early 1960s. He had poor management but his own reasons for lack of success would put conspiracy theorists to shame. He was ignored until the 1970s when some neo-rockabilly fans in the UK created a demand for his records. In 1968 he cut the classic rockabilly single, "Stutterin' Cindy", and in 1973 made the album, *Good Rockin' Tonight*, with his long-suffering son

Bubba on lead guitar and his daughter, Wanda, on lead vocals.

Feathers came to the UK in 1977 for a concert at the Rainbow in London with Buddy Knox, Warren Smith and Jack Scott. He was used to small Memphis bars and he was so disturbed when he saw the size of the theatre that he threatened to return home. Bizarrely, he refused to rehearse, leaving the British musicians at a loss. Nevertheless, from the moment he stepped out with his white suit and silver-grey pompadour, he was treated as a sensation by the rock 'n' roll audience.

Feathers' vocals became even more eccentric with the years, and his glorious version of Jim Reeves' hit "He'll Have To Go" bears only a passing resemblance to the original. "Uh Huh Honey" on his 1991 album *Charlie Feathers* is, in his own words, every bit as outlandish as Yoko Ono's recordings. Feathers, incidentally, was in two minds about recording that album for Elektra's Nonesuch subsidiary. With a rare joke, he told me, "When it comes to payment, they're going to say there's none such company."

By then Charlie Feathers was a sick man. He had diabetic complications and he lost a lung through cancer. He continued to perform and make records for several more years. He never took the advice of his own record, "Defrost Your Heart" (1955), and his reminiscences grew more crotchety with the years.

Ignore the skewed history: "Tongue Tied Jill" (1956) and "Wild, Wild Party" (1961) are amongst the greatest rockabilly records. In keeping with his personality, his epitaph could be a line from "Wild, Wild Party" - "It was a wild party and I know I'm lucky to be alive." As Sam Phillips recalls, "Charlie Feathers was always difficult to work with and that's why we never got the best out of him. That's too bad because he could have been a superb top country artist, the George Jones of his day."

SPENCER LEIGH

Charlie Arthur Feathers, singer, guitarist: born Holly Springs, Mississippi 12 June 1932; married (one son, one daughter); died Memphis, Tennessee 29 August 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

KLAUS P. FISCHER

The long tradition of anti-Jewishness

HISTORY RECORDS no other people like the Jews. Admired and scorned, feared and persecuted, despised and demonised, they have been the obsession of a long succession of people during the last 3,000 years. The Germans consummated this long harvest of hate by annihilating six million of them in the Holocaust.

How do we explain this extraordinary hatred against a single people? How did it originate, express itself, and evolve over the past 3,000 years? And why did the Germans, who gave the world some of the most brilliant scientists, musicians, philosophers, and writers, mobilise this obsessive hatred in such a calculated and brutal fashion that it left six million innocent people dead?

To be anti-Jewish, depending on time and circumstances, could mean a religious hostility based on the belief that Jews are Christ-killers undermining the fibre of Christian civilisation; it could also mean that people distrusted Jews because they represented an alien presence in different nations; it often meant being prejudiced in a nationalistic sense, seeking to exclude Jews from public office and reduce them to the status of an underprivileged minority. Finally, to be anti-Jewish could mean that people looked at Jews as a malignant and subhuman species that represented a deadly threat to any social community.

These strands of Judeophobia rarely formed a constellation or syndrome, not even in Germany, where Jew-hatred had been a long-standing tradition but where Jews were also being assimilated into the fabric of German life and culture. What made the German situation so potentially more volatile was the fact that Germans were deeply insecure as to what it meant to be German. Overcompensating, they developed an extremely restrictive form of group membership that identified a German as someone who belonged to the same ancestral blood community. Jews and other aliens not belonging to this blood community could therefore never become Germans. This sort of thinking, mostly latent before the First World War, became far more prevalent after Germany's defeat in war and the lengthy post-war crisis that would lead to the triumph of Nazism.

Once the Nazis seized power and dismantled a civilised state, they normalised their Judeophobia and tried to galvanise the



German insecurity led to the Holocaust

rest of the population into removing the Jews from German society. But it was not only Judeophobia that made the Holocaust the greatest crime in history possible, for the deed required broad bureaucratic support, technological expertise, the cover of wartime conditions, the co-operation of conquered countries and satellite nations, the passivity of the victims, and the indifference to Jewish suffering by the rest of the world.

We should not comfort ourselves that obsessive hatred, including Jewish hatred, has burned itself out, for we need only look at the news to be persuaded otherwise. Ethnic hatred is endemic throughout the world today. Nor has the sort of delusional thinking that led to the Holocaust disappeared; it is still present all around us, though often in transmuted form.

Evil is a reality in history; that is neither a part of our primitive heritage nor a social condition but rather a human moral flaw that arises out of twisted instincts and perverted desires. Yet, there is also hope. Evil may have caused an inferno that fed on Nazi gas and consumed millions, winning a battle but quite possibly losing the long-range war to goodness because it is unthinkable among civilised people that what has happened at Auschwitz can ever be allowed to repeat itself. Speaking truth and institutionalising it in our schools and public agencies may go a long way towards preventing such horrors from happening again.

Klaus P. Fischer is the author of *The History of an Obsession: German Judeophobia and the Holocaust* (Constable, £25).

A need to give stature to the candidate

THE INDEPENDENT
ARCHIVE
9 SEPTEMBER 1988

Peter Mandelson,
director of campaigns
and communications
for the Labour Party,
follows Michael
Dukakis on the US
campaign trail

I FLY from Washington to join Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis in his home state. There is a feeling his campaign has faltered. The *New York Times* asks acutely why Dukakis is spending time wandering around western Massachusetts looking like a man running for governor again. I quickly realise I am with Dukakis at a difficult time. But strain doesn't show and he is welcoming. In a day he makes six visits, four speeches, holds one press conference and broadcasts by satellite.

I AM witnessing the battle of the soundbites. The aim is to achieve better visuals and a sharper message than your opponent on the evening network news. The criticism of Dukakis is that, since George Bush came out fighting after the Quayle fiasco, he has been losing the media war. But Dukakis is good at the counterpunch. After delivering his favourite speech on economic patriotism and bringing prosperity home to the average American, he walks into a press conference and, in a 70-second statement, accuses Bush of full complicity in the Iran-Contra scandal. The networks are pleased. "Dukakis today showed his strength... Dukakis has signified a new campaign turn." How true this emerges by the end of the week.

SO, WHO is the Duke? Being with him you have a strong sense of a man who is comfortable with himself, his record and his ability to achieve his chosen goals. He does not have the Kennedy charisma or the

Johnson cunning. But he is definitely more earthed than the enigmatic Carter. He is not easy to read on the values cluster so beloved of political analysts here. He will proudly appear before the American flag, but he refuses to wrap himself in it. He supports America's nuclear strength, but will not buy every new weapons system the Pentagon fancies. He is happy for school children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but he'll stand up for their right not to do so. Above all, he believes in government giving a lead. That's why he would make a good manager-president if elected to follow the actor president.

AS DUKAKIS flies on to California I go to the campaign's Boston headquarters. The 10 floors are jam-packed with staff, telephones, word-processors and fax machines: it is not one campaign but 50. Every state, albeit some more important than others, has its own field operation, its own media market, its own fund-raising programme and

political complexion to be accommodated. Jack Corrigan pulls together the operation for Dukakis, who is determined the campaign will differ in every sense from Mondale's in 1984. Then the Democrats were underfunded, poorly organised and left standing on the runway. But many staff I spoke to still felt the campaign was lacking something; the name never far from their lips was that of John Sasso.

Sasso was Dukakis's hardball-playing campaign strategist who in 1987 had to resign after exposing opponent Senator Joe Biden's use of Neil Kinnock's election oratory in his speeches. I was meeting with the Dukakis advertising team when the news broke: Sasso was coming back. The relief was audible. At a packed press conference Sasso apologised for hurting Biden and he charmed the journalists. I was approached for a comment by reporters whom I'd met earlier and said: "Joe Biden's made it up with Neil Kinnock so there's no reason why John Sasso shouldn't make it up with the campaign."

But Sasso not only needs to bring additional skills to the visuals war. He needs to give stature to the candidate. The Dukakis slogan of "Good jobs at good wages" is fine for an ordinary politician but people want to read more than that in the next leader of the world's most powerful nation.

From 'My Week' in *The Independent*, Friday 9 September 1988

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

FORSYTH: On 6 September, at Ipswich, to Alistair and Jackie (née Ashworth), a daughter, Mary.

DEATHS

MONTGOMERY: Robert Michael, barrister-at-law, aged 57, on 6 September, after a brief illness. Much loved by his wife Anne, sons Stephen, Roger, Edward and daughters Elizabeth and Catherine. Enquiries to Quinns of Hoylake, Wirral. Family flowers only, but donations to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Fund if desired.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, obituaries, marriages, Forthcoming marriages, Forthcoming marriages, Forthcoming marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. The OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Richard Adams, former chief executive of P & O, 77; Miss Pauline Baynes, designer and book illustrator, 76; The Right Rev Colin Bennetts, Bishop of Coventry, 58; Sir Tom Cowie, life president, Cowie Group, 78; Professor John Davis, Warden, All Souls, Oxford, 60; Mr Eric Forth MP, former government minister, 54; Sir John Gorton, Australian statesman, 87; Mr Robin Hyman, publisher, 67; Sir John Loveridge, former MP, 73; Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax, chartered accountant, 40; Sir Anthony May, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 58; The Rev Professor Norman Porteous, theological scholar, 100; Mr Cliff Robertson, actor, 73; Mr James Sabben-Clare, Headmaster of Winchester College, 57; Mr Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, president of Italy, 80; Mr Richard Sharpe, rugby player, 60; Mr Dave Stewart, rock singer and producer, 46; Dr The Hon Shirley Summerskill, former Labour MP, 67; Mr Chaim Topol, actor, 63; Miss Margaret Tyack, actress, 67; Air Commodore Robert Weighill, former secretary, Rugby Football Union, 78.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Armand Jean Duplessis de Richelieu, Cardinal and French statesman, 1585;

William Bligh, captain of the *Bounty*, 1754; Alexander Nasmyth, painter, 1758; Zechariah Buck, organist and composer, 1798; Gaetano Milanesi, scholar and writer on art, 1813; Jane Ellen Harrison, scholar and archaeologist, 1850; Houston Stewart Chamberlain, writer, 1855; Ralph Hodgson, poet, 1871; Max Reinhardt (Goldmann), theatre director, 1873; James Evered Agate, theatre critic, 1877; Arthur Freed, popular lyricist and producer, 1894; James Hilton, novelist, 1900; Cesare Pavese, poet and novelist, 1908; Paul Goodman, novelist, playwright and poet, 1911.

Deaths: William I, King (the Conqueror), 1067; James IV, King of Scotland, killed in battle at Flodden Field 1513; Sir Humphrey Gilbert, explorer, drowned off the Azores 1583; Tobias George Smollett, physician and writer, 1771; Giambattista Piranesi, architect, painter and engraver, 1778; Shaka, King of the Zulus, assassinated 1828; Otto Jahn, philologist and archaeologist, 1869; William Theed the Younger, sculptor, 1891; Stéphane Mallarmé, poet, 1898; Henri-Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa, painter, 1901; Roger Eliot Fry, artist, 1944; Mao Tse-tung, Chinese leader, 1976; Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve), poet and critic,

1978; Sir Georg Solti (Gyorgy Solti), conductor, 1997.

On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Flodden Field, 1513; the *Squirrel* frigate was lost off the Azores, with the loss of all on board, 1583; San Sebastian, held by the French, surrendered to the Duke of Wellington, 1813; local government in Britain was constituted under the British Municipal Corporations Act, 1835; California became the 31st of the United States, 1850; Allied troops landed at Salerno, Italy, 1943; General Douglas MacArthur took over supervision of Japan, 1945; North Korea was proclaimed a separate independent state, 1948; the first hijack of a British aircraft took place near Beirut, 1970.

Today is the Feast Day of St Beftelin, St Ciaran or Kieran of Clonmacnois, St Gorgonius, St Isaac or Sahak the Great, St Joseph of Voloklamsk, St Omer or Audomar and St Peter Claver.

DINNERS

University Women's Club A dinner of the University Women's Club was held yesterday evening at its headquarters, 2 Audley Square, London W1. Mr Ben Finklott was the speaker. His subject was "The Monarchy and Constitutional History".

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York opens the Aspire National Training Centre for Disabled People at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, Middlesex.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Andrew Spira, "Medieval Stained Glass", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Andrew Kennedy, "Realism and Moralism: John Everett Millais and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood", 1pm. British Museum: Barbara Brend, "The Juki *Shahnama*: a 15th-century Islamic manuscript", 11.30am. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Rosalind Savill, "Gold Boxes", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John Macgregor, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway. Mr Peter Torry, to be Ambassador to Spain.

Lean times, long looks

Our skirt hems are around our ankles this autumn ... and that can only mean one thing. No, not a moral revolution, just another economic crisis. By **Belinda Morris**

Photographer: Kevin Foord Stylist: Charlie Harrington Hair and Make up: Sam Bryant at Untitled Model: Rachel Harris at Select



Oh dear, I can feel a personal financial dilemma coming on. All the signs are looming around me: I've started gazing wistfully at car boot sales (to buy or sell); I've started to turn the light out when leaving a room and, regrettably, I've cut right back on that expensive 70 per cent cocoa chocolate. But there are other, more telling omens. Dark and disturbing, intimate things that only a fashion person might notice (at first) and they go way beyond the metaphorical tightening of a belt.

It began innocently enough - or so I thought - with the realisation that my trousers were wide enough at the ankle for me to retract my cold bare feet into, while sitting curled up on the sofa (watching reruns of *Dad's Army*, which has to be a sign in itself). Then, when I stood up, they were voluminous and slouchy enough to almost hide my feet completely. I started to get that funny cold shiver of *deja vu*. But so far, nothing too scary.

But what happened next was much more worrying. With the aforementioned fund-raising car boot sale in mind, I began a scourge of my wardrobe, casually throwing out anything that seemed remotely passé - like any skirt on the knee or above. I even started to reappraise some old, call-length numbers that hadn't seen the light of day for years. A floor-length black velvet skirt, bought at a jumble sale three years ago, was suddenly pulsating with possibilities. Whoa, wait a minute. What's going on here?

Falling hemlines? It can only mean one thing - monetary mayhem. Will there be a Wall Street crash? Well, all I can say to the financial speculators is: look back in your fashion history books. It's all there. If's uncanny, isn't it, how the economic

affairs of the world (sometimes all of it, sometimes just parts of it) are echoed in the position of a hemline? Going back to the beginning of time, there's always been a relationship between clothes and prosperity but, specific social nuances aside, that's understandable and obvious. This is different. During this century in particular, there's been one example after another of quite deliberate collusion between the money men and fashion designers.

The deal is: when the going gets tough, women should show support by covering their ankles. Witness the Wall Street crash of 1929 saw hemlines dropping drastically; Dior's shamelessly longer-length *New Look* of 1947 coincided with worsening rationing and fuel shortages (and worried the Board of Trade to the British Guild of Creative Designers to keep short skirts popular and save fabric). The mid 1970s saw the general financial malaise caused by the oil crisis, which found sartorial sympathy in Biba's long, lean skirts and ridiculously wide Oxford Bags. And now look what's happening. Fashion's big cheeses (Gucci for one, so it must be true) would have us in floor-sweeping skirts and pants again - and for the foreseeable future.

There was a bit of a build-up, which should have been regarded as a warning. As currencies in South-east Asia went into freefall last year, we were introduced to knee-length pencil skirts, while the innocuous enough boot-cut pant (that revealed in a bit of ankle-revealing) was superseded by a much lengthier and voluminous trouser shape. But as the latter didn't quite make mainstream impact, the signs were probably ignored.

Well, there's no ignoring it now. The rouble's in deep doo-doo; Wall Street's got the jitters; the British property market is

slowing and every designer worth his salt (Ralph Lauren, Marc Jacobs, Jil Sander, Paul Smith, Nicole Farhi, Ann Demeulemeester) sent models down the runways swathed in yards of shoe-hiding, floor-trailing tweeds and flannels.

The high street, certain now that it knows a real trend when positively flung in its face, duly responded by offering passably comparable looks at a fraction of the price. Nougat, Oasis, Jigsaw, French Connection, Penn Wright & Manson, Sisley and Sportmax - they've all come up trumps on this one. The question is - are you ready for the big cover up, and if so, can you carry it off with aplomb?

Naturally enough, it helps if you're tall, young and slim (in which case, you can carry anything off). But there's more than one way to wear a long tweed skirt and keep your self-respect. Street-wise nonchalance comes with the Gucci-esque hip-slung, ankle-length skirt with combat pant-style fly front and, if you wear it with a gently fitted hip-length jacket, it should add some length to the body. A simple white shirt with black leather skirt gives the look a hard edge. Or there's the grand-entrance, a really long coat, over an even longer skirt - but not great for the vertically challenged.

This is a no-compromise sort of trend - it's even been decreed that you cannot help nature even a little by wearing your high heels (the flattest of the flat shoes are the only truly stylish option, apparently). But hey, what the heck - there's a war on and England expects and all that. I for one refuse to be intimidated by this new look. Personally, I'm going for the fluid-skirt-with-drop-dead-cozy-chunky-sweater-boho look in pure cashmere (with cashmere socks and sheepskin booties) and then I'm going to hibernate for the winter with bars of Cadbury's and *Steeple & Son*.

Clockwise from left: Grey jacket, £129, by In Wear; from selected department stores (0181-871 2155); black ankle length skirt, £159, by Episode, from 172 Regent Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (0171 589 4279); shoes as before.

Shirt, £38, by Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 4484); brown skirt, £55, by Sisley, from selected stores nationwide (0171-647 4200); brown 'Arizona' sandals, £52.95, by Birkenstock (0800 132 194).

White shirt, £25, by Dorothy Perkins nationwide (0171-291 2332); black leather skirt, £175, from selected branches of French Connection (0171-399 7200); black Mary Jane shoes, £99, from Kurt Geiger at House of Fraser (0171-546 1888).

Long wool coat, £289, by Jigsaw; wraparound cream boiled wool skirt, £100, by Penn Wright Manson, from selected department stores (0171-323 4821); tread-down shoes, £89.50, from Russell & Bromley (0171-629 6903).

Hello boys. You look awful

OK, GUYS. Here's the juice. Men can't dress themselves. No, not like that. The problem is, according to the Menswear Council - that men don't know how to put clothes together. Its director, Chris Scott-Gray, says men buy clothes in isolation and don't think about how they will look with the rest of their wardrobe.

"The average guy would go shopping to buy trousers and either buy a new version of a favourite pair, or a pair similar to those of a friend. He will then go home and put new trousers with favourite shirt. He won't be thinking about what suits him, or what goes together, just that he likes it. This is what we are trying to change."

Scott-Gray is spending all this week, (which in case you didn't know is "Dress for Success" week) trying to help men to look better. His team are running around the country giving make-overs to male drinkers at the Slug & Lettuce chain of pubs, and even targeting radio DJs to get the "we want to take the chore out of shopping and give men the confidence to dress well" message across.

The best offering of the week is surely the *Dress for Success* booklet. A pocket-sized pamphlet full of style tips and non-

But if you'd rather dress like these two smoothies, then read on

intimidating fashion pictures, such as those shown here. Some 250,000 have been printed and distributed all over the country to men's clothing outlets. One page offers the top ten *Dressing for Success* tips: Tip one: "Be aware of fashion, but never be a slave to it." Tip seven: "Get a haircut, and think of finishing touches such as clean finger nails." Tip nine: "Think shoes - ensure they go with the rest of the outfit."

Hold on a minute. Are British men really that bad? Scott-Gray doesn't look at it that way. "Fifteen to 20 per cent of the male population are fashion literate. This campaign is not aimed at them. About 30 per cent really don't care about clothes. We want to get to them."

That's a lot of men. In fact, according to a survey conducted by the retailers involved

in this scheme (all the big players including M&S, Austin Reed, Burton, Moss Bros, Levi's, Next and more), 45-50 per cent of men would like a few basic style tips to help them while shopping. Scott-Gray himself admits to not being fashion-literate. "Don't get me wrong, I know what's going on, but it doesn't come naturally to me, and I'd say that I'm pretty average when it boils down to it."

His booklet reflects a straightforward attitude towards dressing. Indeed the basic suit with shirt and tie combinations are featured at length. As a general rule, it is suggested that checked suits should be worn with a plain shirt and tonal tie. A plain suit can either be dressed down with a relaxed button-down shirt but no tie, or a high-necked jumper. Every man is also recommended to own at least one navy blue single-breasted suit, because it's "versatile, fresh and modern".

Which is all very well, and I was convinced by *Dress for Success* until I read this: "Combat pants can look smart but only when they are fitted and not sagging at the hips." But, dear Menswear Council, being sagging or low-slung (as fashion types call it) is the whole point of them.

MELANIE RICKEY



JAVIERO 1350

You ask the questions

(Such as: Sophie Dahl, do you feel pressure not to slim now that you are renowned as a 'larger' model?)

The model Sophie Dahl, 20, is the daughter of the writer Tessa Dahl and grand-daughter of the children's writer Roald Dahl. Her looks have been heralded by fashion pundits as a "revolutionary" departure from the waif look, and much has been made of her "voluptuous" measurements - she is size 14, with a 38DD bust.

Currently on the books of the model agency Storm, Sophie has been modelling for 18 months, appearing in a string of fashion magazines including *Elle*, *Vanity Fair* and *Italian Vogue*.

Do you ever feel exploited working in the fashion industry?

Anita, Brighton
I have on occasion, when I've been asked to do things I didn't want to do. However, I think there's a degree of exploitation in most jobs.

Which model do you rate as the most classically beautiful?

Joanne Odell, Essex
Christy Turlington.

What was your worst backstage moment?

Roger, Putney
I got pretty drunk backstage in Paris two years ago. I had quite a bit of difficulty manoeuvring down the catwalk in 4-in stilettos. Needless to say I was not asked to do that particular show again.

Do you ever have problems finding clothes to fit?

Sue Oliver, Camden
No.

Do you exercise? If so, what do you do and where?

Emily, Nuneaton
I work out with a trainer three times a week.

After seeing so many waifs in magazines, do you think you have made a difference to how we view the "ideal" woman?

J Sinclair, Manchester
Perhaps. I still don't know what the "ideal" woman is. Waifs will always be in demand because it's a lot easier to design for straight up and down rather than round curves. This is the reality, unfortunately.

Did you feel comfortable posing naked for Nick Knight? What did you think when you saw the photo? What did your mother think?

Julia McEwen, Cornwall
Worryingly comfortable. Nick is the ultimate professional and hugely nice. I was alarmed when I saw the picture because I couldn't believe my thighs were that big. I don't think that they are, actually. My mother was HORRIFIED.

Do you believe in marriage?

Debbie Penrose, Harps
Yes. But only for love.

Who is your ideal man?

Chris and Tony, Liverpool

Somebody who makes me roar with laughter, who thinks I'm ravishing with long hair and spots - and who'll read me glorious flowers. NEVER read roses. Basically, no one I know, deeply regretfully.

Where do you buy your clothes?

Nadine, Oxford

Joseph, Portobello Market

Who are your favourite fashion designers?

Nadine, Oxford

Alexander McQueen, Bella Freud

How old were you when you first kissed a boy? Where was it?

Jules Oldham, Lancaster

I was 13 years old. It was in someone's driveway in Highgate. His name was Arthur and I still know him. It was thrilling but very cold, as it was December and I was wearing hot pants and a vest.

What memories do you have of your grandfather? Have you read any of his books - and if so, which ones are your favourites?

Paula, Weymouth

I miss him terribly. He was extraordinary. We used to talk about books a lot. I made him laugh. My favourite book by him is *My Uncle Oswald*.

What was your waking thought?

Sharna, Taunton

I woke up wanting to kill someone who had been outrageously rude about me. Then I thought about the person I have a crush on.

Do you feel pressure to stay at your current weight and not slim, owing to being renowned as a "larger" model?

Tim Topple

There's no pressure on me to be a particular weight. But I loathe being

renowned as a "larger" model. It makes me cringe. I should be allowed to be voluptuous or scrawny of my own volition, without people going on about it. It can be rather boring.

This coming Saturday you can have a free meal at the restaurant of your choice. Which would it be? PS My diary can be refigured to free the aforementioned time slot.

Patrick Smith, Newcastle upon Tyne
Nobu at the Metropolitan. I love sushi.

What is your favourite dessert?

Nadine Kay, Folkestone

Rice pudding.

What was the last film you went to see? Ditto the last pop group.

Sara Peters, Nottingham

I went on a date to see *Armageddon* in New York. The film was dreadful and the date not much better. I saw the Beastie Boys at *Britton Academy* and they ROCKED.

How did you break into modelling? Is it something you always wanted to do?

Danni Fielding, Bristol

I wanted to be a writer. I was spotted on the street by Isabella Blow, smoking a bag and crying after having a huge fight with my mother. She said, "Let me make you into a supermodel" and I said, "All right then".

How do you feel when you see everyone backstage wandering around in G-strings?

Penny Fox, Hereford

Jealous.

Do you agree with the 18-year-old model Sarah Thomas's criticisms of her waif-like colleagues?

Pandora, Shepperton

I'd imagine that she's probably right - most criticisms of the modelling world are just.

What do you do to while away the hours between photo-shoots or fashion shows?

Lisa Stevenson, Kings Lynn

Smoke. A LOT. Read a great deal, and drink endless cups of tea.

Are you reading anything good at the moment? Who is your favourite author?

Will North, Sheffield

I have just read a book called *Lila* by Susanna Moore and she is quite brilliant.

What do you see yourself doing five years from now?

Christie Hagan, Norwich

Hopefully, happy and enormously rich: married to someone celestial, barefoot and pregnant, making pasta in a crumbling palazzo in southern Italy, surrounded by my friends.

NEXT WEEK: BOB GELDOF

Please send any questions you would like to put to Bob Geldof, pop star, TV mogul and DJ, to: You Ask The Questions, Features dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: your.questions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday 11 September



I survived Fred and Rose West

'If I had gone through with a rape charge back in 1972, the other girls would still be alive'

Caroline Roberts was 17 when she hitched a ride with Fred and Rose West and subsequently took a job as their nanny. Weeks after she quit the Wests picked her up again and took her back to Cromwell Street where she was subjected to horrific sexual abuse. Caroline escaped but the matter was not investigated. The Wests later killed 10 women. Caroline was one of the main witnesses at Rose West's trial in 1995. Now 42, she still lives in Gloucester.

NOT A DAY goes by when I don't think about the girls who didn't make it. Just three months after I escaped, the Wests killed their first victim - their baby-sitter, Lynda Gough. If I had gone through with a rape charge against Fred West back in 1972, Lynda and the other girls would still be alive. When they started finding the bodies I felt terrible. I just kept thinking, why didn't I say something? From the moment I hitched a lift I thought they were an odd couple. Fred was confident but Rose was dim and had an irritating, whiny voice. She was younger, and very pretty. Fred was what some might call ruggedly handsome and could be very charming.

In retrospect there were so many perturbing aspects to life at 25 Cromwell Road. Fred and Rose constantly quizzed me about my sex life, which I found very embarrassing. They would encourage my boyfriend to stay, suggesting we use their bed, and Fred would reassure me that if I ever "got into trouble" he could "sort me out" as he knew how to carry out abortions.

He was obsessed with women's sexual enjoyment and "improving it". Rose would slide up to me on the sofa and fiddle with my hair.

The younger children were delightful, but I found Anne Marie, the oldest daughter, odd. She would alternate between being hyperactive and withdrawn. It did go through my mind that he had abused her.

It sounds bizarre, but being raped by Fred West was not as devastating as being abused by Rose. The rape took a few seconds, and I knew what to expect. But I found my experience with Rose totally repulsive. She gave me oral sex - which I had never participated in - and it made me feel utterly degraded. I went off women completely as a result. I became very nervous around female friends. With men I became jealous and obsessive, and I didn't have oral sex again until after the trial in 1995.

Fred's final threat before I escaped was that he would "bury me under the paving stones of Gloucester" with the "hundreds of girls" who were already there. This image tormented me for years, and I still have a recurring dream. I can hear my mother on the ground above crying, handing out pictures of me. I'm shouting to tell her I'm under the stones, but she can't hear me.

Because Fred was constantly bragging, I thought his threat had no substance. When, 23 years later, I heard on the news that a man had been held on suspicion of burying his murdered daughter under paving stones, I went cold. I knew it was him. Immediately I heard later that Fred had talked of me as a "dummy run"



Caroline Roberts, the Wests' nanny
Katinka Herbert

to test Rose's killing ability.

I did report the attack to the police - and the Wests were charged with indecent assault - but I didn't push a rape charge. There were a number of reasons for this. I had an affair with one of the lodgers at the houses, and another had tried to sleep with me. The Wests had told the police about this and I was terrified of people finding out. And my stepfather, with whom I had a difficult relationship at the time, didn't want me to go to court as he was worried about neighbours gossiping.

After it came out, I felt terribly emotional and guilty. I thought I'd been selfish because my first thought was to protect myself, even though the Wests' behaviour had

been suspicious - I didn't want people to probe into my life. If I had really persisted, the police would at least have been watching Fred. And, on the flip side, if I hadn't said anything at all, would the women still have been alive? Because I caused a fuss Fred and Rose no longer trusted the women they abused, and so eradicated their fears by killing them. My belief in an afterlife also helps me come to terms with their deaths. People are astounded at how I cope with life. It has made me feel invincible.

Understandably, I'm a protective of my children. I remember my daughter being frustrated that I wouldn't let her go camping with friends. She only realised why when the bodies were found and my involvement unravelled.

I feel that I went through this for a reason: I am now here to help people who have lost those they love. When my children have grown up, I want to train as a rape counsellor and write a book about my experiences. My friends worry that if I talk too much about what happened people will think I'm insane, but I think it's important to talk about it if it helps people who have been through similar experiences.

The girls who didn't get away are always going to haunt me. After the trial I had terrible nightmares. I used to visualise another of the Wests' victims, the student Lucy Partington, tied up, pleading with me to help her.

I have developed a relationship with Lynda Gough's parents - they wrote to me after the trial because they knew how devastated I was about Lynda's death. Their first letter was incredibly moving. They said they didn't blame me, and that as long as we went on feeling guilty we would continue to be the Wests' victims. We write regularly but don't meet in person. I think the emotion would be too overwhelming.

I often think about writing to Rose. She says she has found God, but if she really had she would confess. It isn't my place to forgive her for killing others, but I could forgive her for what she did to me. She says she can't remember it, which makes the very angry. But I think that abusing and killing women became so much part of her life that she simply couldn't tell us apart.



This article is a shorter version of one appearing in 'She' magazine, on sale from 10 September
INTERVIEW BY AMANDA KELLY

IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

14: FAT-FREE FOODS BY ANNALISA BARBIERI

"EIGHTY-FIVE per cent fat-free" smiles Mr Motivator, every Valium-pickled housewife's dream, of McVitie's new Go-Ahead Caramel Crisp Bars. What rubbish all this XX per cent fat-free nonsense is that is now plastered on everything. Eighty-five per cent fat-free may sound great, but it is still 15 per cent fat, which is quite a lot. Yes, it may be better than gobbling a Fuse bar, but nowhere near as delicious.

I understand the point of them. You feel like a naughty snack, you buy an XX per cent fat-free bar of chocolate, you eat it and bingo. No guilt. But not that much pleasure, either. And with not much pleasure comes frustration, and before you know it, there are three wrappers marked XX per cent fat-free stuffed down the side of the sofa.

For that you could have had a Mars Bar and felt satisfied, and your fingers would have been sticky with glorious full-fat chocolate. Instead you feel like a miserable failure.

A McVitie's chocolate biscuit has 23.9g of fat per 100g of product - 87 calories per biscuit. The Go-Ahead version has only 14g of fat per 100g, but it is still 55 calories per biscuit. Yes, I know it is not just the calories that matter but my point is that for an extra 22 measly calories you can lick the melting chocolate off a far-tastier dunked-in-tea biscuit.

Jacob's launched its Vitalinae range a few months ago. Half-way through a packet

of its Crispy Chocolate biscuits a colleague spluttered "Oh God. These still contain 16g of fat and I've just had 140 calories' worth of them" (although this did equate to 10 whole biscuits). All in the name of fat freeness, she would not even have been eating them if that wretched banner proclaiming XX per cent fat-free had not been scrolled across the wrapper. Because yes, doesn't it seem that just by eating them you are on the road to being fat-free?

Now take Entenmann's cakes. Hallelujah, I thought, when I saw its (95 per cent fat-free) Double Chocolate Muffins in Tesco. But it is a simple sum to calculate: little fat, little taste. We are all looking for a short cut; we all want to eat as much as we like but miraculously lose weight. I will let you in to a secret; my new book will be about this and it is called *The Secret of Losing Weight*. The first chapter is called "Food" and it says "Eat less and you will lose weight". The second (and final) chapter is called "Moving" and it says "Move more and you will lose weight".

Of all the fat-free garbage we have been bombarded with the best was the Mars Light which, in fact, annoyingly, we were not trialling it only in Wales and the West Country. Mars withdrew it. Bring it back! We would know where we were with this: a gorgeous Mars but with half the fat of the Marianne Faithfull variety.

The sleazy side of Bacon

Francis Bacon's sado-masochistic love affair with an East End villain is the subject of John Maybury's *Love is the Devil*. Insight into a tortured mind or plain muckraking? By James Mottram

"WHAT I wanted to do with this film was make a Powell and Pressburger *Curry On*, which I think I've done," says John Maybury, the director of *Love is the Devil*.

Francis Bacon, denizen of the late 20th century art world and subject of Maybury's impressionistic rendering, doubtless would have approved. At home with culture and class at both ends of the spectrum, his work is a crossbreed of the lush and the grotesque: Bacon the man, and the artist, is once more the centre of controversy.

Subtitled "Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon", Maybury's film is no biopic, eschewing most of the painter's 63-year existence in favour of his short-lived and tragic love affair with muse and marginal East End villain, George Dyer. "It's not a film about painting," says Maybury. "If you want to find out about Bacon there are dozens of great documentaries: you can go and watch them. It would have been really pointless to have made a *Wilde*, for instance. It would have been hugely disrespectful to Bacon, and also to the modernism of his achievements, to do something like that. It needed a more abstract approach to be worthwhile."

Opening, in 1971, with Bacon's triumphant retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris (just as Dyer is fatally cramming pills and booze down his throat in a nearby hotel), the film crawls back through the mire of the late Sixties Soho drinking elite, setting itself for the most

part in the squalid Colony Room club, presided over by the frighteningly vile Muriel Belcher.

With Derek Jacobi and Tilda Swinton on hand vividly to bring to life Bacon and Belcher, Maybury sets out to show the dark side of the man: Bacon the sado-masochist, the humiliator, dragging Daniel Craig's Dyer through the gossip and verbal barbs until, as the director puts it, "he just fell apart".



"There was something inherently disruptive in the nature of Bacon's relationships. There is a certain pre-destined inevitability in Dyer's demise. He is almost sacrificed to fertilise the art. By the end, even his sub-conscious no longer be-

longs to him," says Maybury. That, a decade before, Bacon's previous lover, Peter Lacey, died on the night of the artist's Tate gallery retrospective fittingly satisfies this inexorable wheel of Greek tragedy. A subject, of course, that influenced Bacon's work tremendously.

Preferring to visually represent the Bacon/Dyer dynamic as a shifting canvas, Maybury uses film the way Bacon uses paint. "I wanted to make the film look like Bacon's paintings. His work told us how to design the film: the claustrophobia; the airless rooms with white, lardy English flesh; the cigarette-stained, drink-sodden beings - it's all there."

Such a war-torn and all approach was bound to stir up trouble. Not what the BBC had in mind when hiring Maybury for the project. One executive even ludicrously suggested the film be given a happy ending. Early script drafts were deemed "prurient"; Malcolm McDowell, Maybury's first choice for the role for over a year, dropped out without reason; the critic David Sylvester denied access to his definitive interviews with the painter.

Lord Gower, Chairman of the Arts Council and one-time friend of Bacon, objected to the use of the word "county" in the script, insisting on its removal before access to a £250,000 lottery grant would be given (Maybury did so, only to replace it upon shooting). Unsurprisingly, the Bacon estate also refused permission to use his paintings in the film, while Bruce Bernard, brother to Jeffrey and one



A hallucinogenic nightmare committed to celluloid: Derek Jacobi, above, plays Francis Bacon. Left, director John Maybury

of Lucien Freud's models, maintained that not enough time had elapsed since Bacon's death in 1992 to assess his life properly.

"There is a great sense of ownership over Bacon," says Maybury. "People who had a vested interest in him - whether it be the estate or people who have made careers out of him - wanted to protect their investment. The irony of that is that Bacon was one of the most honest public figures I can think of - about who he was and what he got up to. They didn't want it dug up again. It suits certain people to isolate Bacon from his life, because it's a bit messy. People wanted me to show Bacon as this great intellectual figure."

As for Dyer, Maybury drew a blank from most of the people he

spoke to for a character reference: "He was like a cipher. It was like he didn't really exist. The only tangible thing I could grasp was the sort of envy people felt towards him because he was being painted by Bacon. The funny thing is, I underplayed a lot of what went on, but to pretend it did not happen at all would be dishonest."

A hallucinogenic nightmare committed to celluloid, *Love is the Devil* is as radical in its own way as any of Maybury's previous works. Friend and collaborator with the late Derek Jarman, working as a costume and set designer on *Jubilee*, and editor on *War Requiem* and *Last of England*, Maybury himself has known what it was like to be the darling of the avant-garde. The recipient of re-

spectives at the ICA, he produced "dirge-like" Super 8mm essays, alongside work for the Michael Clark dance company and performance artist Leigh Bowery. He supplied designer Rifat Ozbek with a kaleidoscopic tape of his models in lieu of a catwalk presentation, and produced *Remembrance of Things Past*, a treatise on AIDS and the media.

Fascinated by Bacon's work from his time as a fine arts student at North London Polytechnic, Maybury's film is a reckoning with this past existence. Skirting Bacon's world 20 years ago when first introduced to the Colony Room ("I never met him, I was too terrified"), Maybury's deliberate cameos, from Turner Prize contender Gary Hume to Stella McCartney and Anita Pal-

enberg, suggest a critique of the art world, as much as of the artist. A world, of course, to which Maybury has attached himself.

"There are people there who are all too ready to rip you to shreds. If you can hold your own in that company, you're one of them," recalls Maybury of the Colony Room. "There's an enormous warmth in that bitchy humour, which I think people have missed. It's not evil, it's inclusive. If they make an effort to be vile to you, it means 'Come on in!' Comparisons between chronicler and chronicled become too tempting: *Love is the Devil* is an invitation to an exclusive netherworld."

Love is the Devil opens next Friday

Pop goes the tenor (again)

Plácido Domingo has recorded an album of romantic boleros whose popularity in Hispanic culture could take him to the top of the charts. By Philip Sweeney

A THURSDAY lunchtime in the Eden Roc Hotel, Miami Beach. It's a turquoise and white 1950s medium-rise redolent of the old pre-vice days of South Beach - Sinatra, the Rat Pack et al. Plácido Domingo is in a roccoco conference room, wearing a white jacket and open-neck shirt. He has been flown in for the day from his holiday home in Acapulco to launch to the international press his new "pop" album, a collection of the romantic songs of the great Mexican songwriter, Agustín Lara.

The assembled media consists in equal parts of middle-aged men in suits and glamorous young women. It's probably advantageous to be one of the latter in terms of access to the few individual interview slots available. I just lost my 10 minutes to a lovely young thing from Santo Domingo, who swept in claiming friendship with Plácido.

The question and answer session is respectful and unprobing, a mixture of HELLO-level curiosity and patriotic attention-seeking. Questions open with requests for greetings to all his fans in Venezuela, or Bolivia or wherever. A statuesque young Chilean lady

asks: "Mr Domingo, firstly, what part of your personality is expressed most in the new record; secondly, is 'Mujer' (Woman) your favourite track; and thirdly, what do you think of the Chilean soprano Veronica Villalón and Cristina Gallardo?" (Answer: "Mujer" is one of his favourites, the Chileans are very promising, and pass on the personality trait.)

In spite of the generally anodyne tone, various serious points emerge. Domingo feels Latin culture is excessively lightweight - an incessant mixture of soap, comedies, interviews and dance music; one of his greatest wishes would be to re-introduce the zarzuela, the Spanish light opera genre of which his parents were exponents. He sees his Three Tenors work as an "important cultural and social action" in the sense that it pulls in punters who would not go to the opera. "They go to one of our concerts and hear a bit of romance in three minutes and think 'Wow!' And he's not countenancing any snobbish criticism about crossover work with Pavarotti and the Spice Girls... to cover himself, it seems, for the future: "I don't want to throw the stone to anybody because maybe one



Don Plácido

day I get all of that back..."

In truth, Domingo has been down the pop road already; the new record is relatively heavyweight, compared with some of his past efforts. Delving into his back catalogue you find, dating from the late 70s, a collection of ballads entitled *Be My Love*, an album of tangos, two volumes called *From My Latin Soul* and duets with Julio Iglesias and John Denver (do you see what he means about greenhouse dwellers and stones?).

With the Lara material, Domingo is mining a shrewd seam. For one thing, the

singer/songwriter/celebrity in question - a sort of Mexican Noël Coward, but macho and bohemian - possesses both vast residual fame throughout the Hispanic world and excellent prospects for a cult revival 30 years after his death. Similarly, the bolero, the Latin romantic song genre Lara specialised in, retains the status of trans-generational standard but has also lately undergone a great sales resurgence with young pop singers such as Luis Miguel.

On the evening of the launch we repair to the chic China Grill restaurant for a cocktail reception, for which the girls swap glamorous outfits for drop-dead glamorous outfits. The tall Chilean turns out to be not nearly so deferential as she'd seemed. "The arrangements are so stussy," she says. "What I really wanted to ask him was how would he feel if Julio Iglesias did an album of Verdi arias?"

Up on the roped-off VIP area, a short, jovial Argentinian named Bebu Silvetti is the man to talk with the shush issue. He is the producer of the album. "Yeah! Absolutely!" nods Silvetti enthusiastically. "That's my feeling - easy, easy... Plácido really likes this!" Wouldn't starker, moodier

arrangements, like Lara's own habitual piano and bass, have been more appropriate?

"No! Impossible! Plácido has a big voice, you know - it needs a big orchestra - I use 47 strings. And everybody loves it - people always saying to me, 'Oh My God! I love big orchestras! I love big singers!'"

Perhaps not everybody. But in spite of objections that Domingo's operatic style is inappropriate for such intimate material, and that Silvetti's orchestration is like a gigantic marshmallow, the groundswell of Miami opinion seems to be behind Domingo. After all, the bolero repertoire was itself partly modelled by Italian bel canto in the 19th century. If Plácido can win over the new, young bolero market in addition to the older female listeners, the target of his record company, then he's got a chance of a big hit.

As for Don Plácido, he's ruling out nothing for the future, as he told a faxen-haired *animatrice* from what sounded like *Wenimie* TV of Miami. He already has underway a collection of rancheros (Mexican country songs) and he's talking to Gloria Estefan. Let's just pray that he's lost the John Denver songbook.

As Mahler would have it

THEY WERE last at the Proms in 1969 (shame), but the good news is that the Czech Philharmonic still sounds like the Czech Philharmonic. Which is something of a miracle given the turbulent times that this nation has lived through, given the irresistible pressure in this shrinking world to be bigger and better than your competitors. Size - as in body and depth of sonority - matters, or so it would seem. A question of national pride. When a delegation of brass players from an orchestra as good as individual, as this one can approach a well-known American conductor (and this is true) asking how they can sound more like the Chicago Symphony, you begin to realise just how irresistible that pressure is.

But the Czech Philharmonic have resisted. They remain unglamorised, unsanitised, unpasteurised, unspooled. A little aural adjustment is required (remember this season has fielded a handful of the world's heavyweights), but that is easily made. Certainly there were times in Sir Charles Mackerras' quite splendid account of Mahler's First Symphony where our "modern" Mahler conditioning craved more: more reach in the strings, more resonance in the brass, more heft in the horns - more volume. The "Titan" of the symphony's subtitle strode proudly but not indomitably to his well-earned triumph. You began to

PROMS
CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:
JANACEK, MAHLER
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

see, or rather hear, why Mahler requested his horns to stand at the close - not just as a visual effect, a moment of theatre, but because the horn sound would have been smaller and rounder then and would otherwise have been swallowed in the orchestral melee.

In fact, listening to this performance was a little like turning the clock back to Mahler's day: the naturalness of the expression, the earthiness of the colours, the very real sense of an orchestra striving beyond the limitations of the instruments in hand. Mackerras, a great stylist, knows about such things. Phrasings and rubatos sound inbred, careful, casual in the best sense of the word. We were back in Bohemia, the source of Mahler's natural world, all charm and mystery. Dawn broke magically, a whisper away from silence, on this first day of the rest of his life. In the stop-and-listen middle section of the first movement cellos etched in fragile *glissandi* whose eeriness was like every forest murmur you've ever heard and not been able to explain. And all around were the singers and their songs, the local bands touting their quirky homespun routines. Mack-

erras made the scherzo's trio sound particularly homely, while reedy woodwinds and sour trumpets duly strutted their stuff in the bizarre and grotesque parodies of the third movement's funeral procession. A huntsman's funeral with the cast of Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* as chief mourners.

Mackerras had earlier offered Vaclav Talich's two-part suite from that opera - a fitting endorsement of his Czech credentials (to say nothing of his authority as a world-renowned Janacek specialist), since Talich had been his teacher. So more animal magic, more pastures green, but in Janacek's distinctive hues and in a performance as bright-eyed and quick-witted as his bushy-tailed heroine. Again it was the friendly persuasion, the honesty of the playing that was so winning. I've heard more spectacular performances of Janacek's orchestral rhapsody *Turris Buloa*, but few as naturally in touch with the feeling behind its strangely unorthodox timbres. Which unfortunately included a nasty muddy-based electronic organ. Standard orchestral pitch being higher in other parts of Europe meant that the great Albert Hall organ sat redundant as gruff Czech brass rose above the tinny tinny-bellows to proclaim *Turris Buloa*'s prophecy. No matter, an evening of tangibly real music-making.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Twenty four hands are better than two

PIANOWORKS, a series of 17 concerts rammed into four days, is a lusty celebration of the piano - and I use the present tense since it is intended that last weekend's four-day festival should turn into an annual event.

The atmosphere in the Blackheath Concert Halls was gloriously anarchic: concerts over-running their schedules, a hint of chaos in the organisation, artists mingling with the audience - and vice versa in the concluding "Piano Bash", when six pianists oh-so-miraculously materialised from the crowd to join the six already onstage in two pieces for 24 hands, one of them Czerny's

delightfully outrageous arrangement of Rossini's overture to *Semiramide* ("Demisemiramide", someone behind me quipped).

The music, much of it rewardingly obscure, was presented in various forms - solo recitals, chamber concerts, a cabaret evening, a tribute to Percy Grainger (whose heterodox muse watched over the entire festival), an event for kids, and even a late-night jazz special. The backbone was provided by a team of six pianists: Stephen Coombs, who devised and planned the proceedings and Marc-André Hamelin, Seta Tanyel, Arthur Pizarro, Jonathan Plowright

CLASSICAL
PIANOWORKS '98
BLACKHEATH CONCERT HALLS
LONDON

and Leslie Howard, who offered some staggering Liszt playing.

The centerpiece of the entire event was the Sunday afternoon recital given by Marc-André Hamelin, who must now be the closest - post-Horowitz - to claiming the title of "world's greatest pianist". You don't often see concert-going middle-England pressed against the recital room door, waiting to

rush in and grab the best seats. You do at Hamelin recitals, and it is hardly surprising: his technique is breathtakingly virtuosic, but he uses it to give himself space to think about the music. Hamelin can interpret where other pianists are worried about getting all the notes and his musical curiosity guarantees programmes that eschew the Mozart - Beethoven - Schumann axis of less adventurous players.

At Blackheath, Hamelin presented a fascinating mix of Alkan (including the torrential variations of *Le Festin d'Esoppe*, Medtner's *Sonata reminiscenza* the has just recorded all 14 Medtner

sonatas for Hyperion), seven of Godowsky's scintillating, Fabergé reworkings of the Chopin studies (which he is likewise recording) and the world premiere of *Le Festin d'Alkan* by the Scottish composer, Ronald Stevenson, 70 this year and now one of the country's senior musical statesmen. *Le Festin d'Alkan* is an extensive demonstration of Stevenson's contention that "composition, transcription and variation are essentially the same thing".

It is a deeply compelling, even disturbing exploration of the bowels of the piano, a lesson in how to make the instrument tell. The first

movement is a dark fantasy, baleful, frightening, and as black as anything Stevenson has written. The second varies Alkan's G minor *Barcarolle* and the third is a set of free variations which sweeps up the piano literature in reference, studded with three fearsomely difficult cadenzas.

Half an hour in length, it is certainly one of Stevenson's most important work to date and a major addition to the repertoire. Whether other pianists can play with Hamelin's calm aplomb and electrifying precision remains to be seen.

MARTIN ANDERSON

"If this isn't the biggest hit in the West End since 'ART' I will eat my Critics' Circle membership card...
PURE THEATRICAL DELIGHT"

real
inspector hound
black
comedy

"two brilliantly funny one-acters...
queue now"

LAST 8 WEEKS MUST END 31 OCT

40 SEATS AT £10 AVAILABLE ON THE DAY TO PERSONAL BOOKERS

COMEDY THEATRE
BOX OFFICE 0171 369 1731 - CC 0171 344 4444

0171 369 1731

The mother of all dramas

Racine, Euripides, Benjamin Britten, Stevie Smith and Sarah Kane have all fallen for Phaedra, the woman who fell in love with her stepson. Now it's the turn of Ted Hughes. By Paul Taylor

Tonight, Diana Rigg will take to the stage as Phèdre at the opening of the new Ted Hughes version of Racine's great tragedy, directed by Jonathan Kent. It's not the first time, though, that she has played this tormented heroine – the Cretan wife of Theseus who succumbs to an incestuous, fatal passion for her righteously chaste stepson, Hippolytus. Some 23 years ago, Rigg starred in *Phaedra Britannica*, the Tony Harrison adaptation which propelled the action forward from mythical Greece to the British Raj of the mid-1850s. The divinities who rent apart Racine's characters became the gods of India, or, as the bewildered Brits continually cry, nearly "India" itself.

From Euripides to Stevie Smith, Benjamin Britten and Sarah Kane, the Phaedra legend has attracted many artistic responses and reworkings. Racine's play is, after all, itself indebted to versions by Euripides and Seneca. Not that there aren't aspects of the story that prove tough to pitch to a modern audience. The obdurate militant chastity of Hippolytus, for example, is meant, in the Euripides, to be seen as the defilement of a virtue, the love of purity taken to a hubristic, blasphemous extreme. But, to current perceptions, virginity seems about as sane and unlaughable an ideal as voluntary penury. As Jonathan Kent recalls, from an earlier Almeida production of the Euripides, audiences tend to think that Hippolytus has "something seriously wrong with him".

The most radical solution to this problem was provided by Sarah Kane in her 1996 play, *Phaedra's Love* which transposed the story to a present day, dysfunctional, British-seeming royal household. Here, far from being an athletic hunter, Hippolytus was a grumpy, reclusive slob of a prince whose denial of love was expressed not in celibacy but in the indiscriminate indulgence of someone who treats sex as junk food. The ease with which Phaedra could get into his knickers – he grudgingly allowed his stepmother to give him a blow job, while idly scoffing takeaway fries and never allowing his eyes to stray from the TV set – threw cruel emphasis on the fact that, essentially, he was as remote as his Greek counterpart.

If Kane found an ironic modern equivalent for Hippolytus's impregnability, the Romanian director Silviu Purvulescu, in his recent acclaimed reworking, got round the contemporary cultural difficulties by reducing the story to its primal elements in a timeless, moonlit landscape eternally policed by two opposed divinities, Artemis, the Goddess of Chastity, prophylactically bandaged in white from head to foot, stalked the stage like a high-stepping gazelle, with Aphrodite, a dumpy primitive predator whose face was hidden behind a curtain of hair. Underscored by a throbbing *perpetuum mobile* of sound on the cimbals, the piece gave a mesmeric sense of the



Above, Diana Rigg in the latest translation of Racine's classic tragedy of mother love. Right, Racine Geraint Lewis/Mary Evans Picture Library

Phaedra drama as an unending, mythic clash of absolutes. Impotent to strike a healthy balance between the conflicting forces, Lini Pintea-Honeag's amazing Callas-like Phaedra and Angel Rabab's half-naked, snorting disdainful Hippolytus seemed to be destroyed by some impersonal, implacable and pitiless machine. In his version of *Phèdre*, Racine makes a significant adjustment. Here, the cold, pure hunter has himself developed a secret passion – for the invented character of Aricia. It's a choice certain to bring him into conflict with his father and to cause his stepmother agonies of jealousy when she discovers that he has rejected her advances not because he cannot love, nor simply because of the incest barrier, but because he loves elsewhere.

Jonathan Kent points out that, at its first performance in 1677, Racine entitled his tragedy, *Phèdre et Hippolyte*, and "doesn't take Hippolytus's iconic status for granted. He makes him psychologically complex so that his brutal death, when it comes, seems the most terrible waste". I felt the force of these remarks, while watching a different production of *Phèdre* brought last week to the Edinburgh festival by the brilliant Swiss director, Luc Bondy.

From such an exalted source, this was a surprisingly disappointing and underpowered occasion. A golden-gowned figure who whirled round repeatedly with an embarrassing, child-like giddiness after she has confessed her guilty secret to her confidante, Valerie Dreville was a reasonably impressive Phèdre, her strangu-

lated animal howl of anguish and incredulity, on hearing that Hippolytus loves another, acutely harrowing. But as the object of her wild infatuation, Sylvain Jacques was just a vacant pretty-boy, clad in a preposterous see-through shirt and seemingly possessed of all the moral complexity of an ex-member of Take That. So the climactic moment of their confrontation, when Dreville's Phèdre arches right back and uncovers her breast before his sword, as if inviting him either to kill or to ravish her, was undercut. What principally preoccupied you was her shallow taste in men.

The evening was not helped by the surtitles which were full of ridiculous archaisms ("Wait not until a father's wrath force thee away amid general execra-

tion") that kept reducing the audience to stifled sniggers. In their own daft way, they bore out Jonathan Kent's point that "all translations are versions". This is particularly the case with Racine, since the consummate balance between formality and ferocity in his alexandrines is fiendishly difficult to reproduce in English verse.

Some formidable poets have responded to the challenge. Robert Lowell's 1961 version has been criticised for being too "post-Freudian", rendering sexually explicit what is merely suggested in Racine's verse. But this would seem to me the honourable course, if the alternative to that directness is a coy and clumsy suggestiveness, such as was never the intended effect of the French. Here is how Lowell treats the climactic moment, referred to



earlier. Begging Hippolytus for his sword, Lowell's Phèdre cries: "Look, this monster, ravenous / For her execution, will not flinch. / I want your sword's spasmodic final inch" – a couplet where there's a shuddering conflation of orgasm and death in "spasmodic" and an unforgettable phallic swelling of "finch" to "final inch". Nudging and mealy mouthed, this isn't.

Lowell, writing of Racine's verse, refers to "the glory of its hard, electric rage". That electric rage is strongly transmitted by the new Ted Hughes version in unrhymed verse. Jonathan Kent describes it as "a landslide of tough adamant language. It's Racine seen through the prism of Hughes' genius". Throughout, Hughes gives further twists to the intensity of the piece. When Phèdre talks of the nightmare impossibility of avoiding Hippolytus because he and her husband look so alike, in the original she actively monitors the resemblance. In Hughes' version she thinks of herself as the thing viewed in an oppressive, creepy surveillance exercise: "Everywhere I saw him staring at me / Through his father's features." Similarly, Phèdre's feeling that having lost self-dominion through passion she's in no position to take charge of a state, here gains a powerful sense of both psychological possession and loss of political control. The heroine describes herself as "occupied by an enemy / That hardly lets me breathe." The lines conjure up a ghastly inner stifling, different from the "shameful yoke" that leaves Racine's Phèdre gasping. There's an unflinching verbal muscularity in the Hughes that an actress like Diana Rigg will surely relish.

Two high profile productions of *Phèdre* within a week is a rare occurrence. Art is, of course, not a contest. However, if you want to think of it in those terms, the Bondy was so lacklustre that the Kent / Rigg *Phèdre* has everything to play for.

The Almeida Theatre production of *Phèdre* opens tonight at the Albany Theatre, London WC2 (0171-369 1730)

The actor: Kate Ashfield.
The part: Cate in 'Blasted'.
The year: 1995

I'D DONE a few plays after I left Rose Bruford drama school, but *Blasted* was a turning-point for me. I was about 22, and found myself in this play at the Royal Court that everyone was talking about.

The tabloids were sniffing around. Harold Pinter came to see it and sent the playwright, Sarah

Kane, a letter of support. Every audition I went to after that, they said "Oh, so you were in *Blasted*".

I was playing Cate, an epileptic with a mental age of 12, who gets raped by a soldier. What was interesting was that everyone in the theatre thought the actors were having a really tragic time of it, but we were all having a laugh. It was quite surprising to us that some of the audience found it so shocking

they walked out, or even fainted.

On the last night, there was even some real blood. It was early on, after the masturbation scene and before the oral sex. Pip Donaghy, who was playing Ian, my middle-aged lover, had to open a bottle of champagne.

The metal bit twisted off and cut his hand. I had to have a fit in which I cried and laughed hysterically, then fainted, and he had to flick water over me. As he

DEBUT



tried to revive me, he saw blood fly everywhere.

He just turned to the audience and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very bleak show but it's not that bleak. I'm going off stage to get a plaster."

It was one of those moments where you just don't stop a play. I was left lying on the bed, not knowing what to do. I thought: "I can't stay here; I'm out of character". So I got up and went off. Then Pip

came back on, with a plaster, and said something ridiculous like "Where's my leading lady gone?"

So back I came and he picked a line and said "Let's go from there."

I realised to my horror that the next thing I had to do was laugh and cry hysterically all over again. I thought: "They'll know it's fake if I do it exactly the same a second time... so I did a shorter version. It wasn't as good, which was a shame, because it was

such a brief run and everyone wants the last performance to be the best one. But the audience probably enjoyed it more.

They got a kick out of the fact that something genuinely unexpected had happened in *Blasted*.

Kate Ashfield stars in 'Closer', at the Lyric Shaftesbury (0171-494 5045) Booking to 31 Oct

INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENTISH

An excellent criminal record

IT'S EASY to mock the hubris of fringe theatre companies, to knock the spirit of vaulting ambition that often sends our least experienced actors off to tackle the hardest works the canon can hurl at them.

The National Theatre of Brent has become a comic institution by repeatedly pillorying thespian delusions of grandeur with its shoe-string epics. A production of *Crime and Punishment* by 16 actors at the tiny Finborough in west London sounds like another example of a company with ideas above its venue. But the members of Steam Industry have come up trumps.

The main reason for this, oddly enough, is that they don't overreach themselves. The chosen text is the one Rodney Ackland devised in 1946 – little beard of after its initial run with John Gielgud and Edith Evans. The playwright remorselessly shredded those pages of gibbering monologues and fevered descriptions of St Petersburg low-life and delivered the bare bones of the story, confining the action to the house of Amalia Ludwigovna – the landlady of the wretched student Raskolnikov. The result is brief (one and three quarter hours) and to the point.

The Finborough's chicken coop space has been exploited by designers Tamasio Rhymes

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

and Rupert Tebb, who range us along three sides of the acting area in railed wooden stands, like nosey neighbours in a crowded tenement or jurors at a makeshift court. Stygian lighting reinforces a sense of the moral murk in which Raskolnikov can hatch his murder-friendly theory of a world divided between lice and men.

The biggest edit is that we aren't shown the old pawnbroker being bludgeoned to death, which helps both to sidestep melodrama and register how impalpable the crime is to its perpetrator. Mark Collinson strikes the perfect balance between loveable and contemptible rogue: as scrawny as an abandoned nut, this Raskolnikov's skin is so thin, we can almost see him twisting inside as he is goaded by police inspector Porfiri, whom the director, Phil Willmott, plays with a smug detachment.

An adaptation could probably thrive solely on the basis of this double-act. Certainly, the other parts are two-dimensional by comparison; so much so that the brief, bawling crowd scenes have the feel of *Past Show* sketches.

But the size of the cast isn't simply attention-seeking – by the time Raskolnikov's helpmeet, the pure-at-heart prostitute, Sonia (Kirsty McFarland), has persuaded him to confess his guilt in the streets, we are in little doubt that the society before which he kneels is so spiritually destitute as to lend him a kind of innocence.

In Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, vigorously attempted by the National Youth Theatre, there is a similar journey towards an admission of culpability that the protagonist holds off until the last minute.

The trick, again, is to keep startling the audience, as though the pieces of the jigsaw detailing a tragedy whose outline is already familiar, were being put together for the first time. William Karley, the director, achieves this through the positioning of a massive 33-strong Theban chorus, who snuff, hiss, sing, chant and stomp their responses – punctuating a tribal steel drum beat with the insistent clatter of pots and pans.

Just shepherding them into position would have been worth an award, but there are some stunning tableaux, most omi-

nously, during Jocasta's revelations, their silhouettes rise up against the glowing cyclorama of Lottie Collett's parched landscape like gathering vultures. The ensemble posturings are more striking than the individual performances: Tom Padden's Oedipus has a delivery of Blair-like sanctimoniousness, which explains why the gods have got it in for him; initially impressive, the rapturous tone doesn't sit so well with defeat.

Neil Simon's 1985 gender rewrite of his 1965 flatmate-from-hell hit *The Odd Couple* lacks the freshness of the original – even supposing one could block out the memory of Walter Matthau's hangdog performance as Oscar, the man who takes in his snally retentive, suicidal chum and lives to regret it.

Still, Pinnacle Productions (a company set up for actors with day jobs) have a good stab, with Alexis Nishinaka and Anita Booth providing the laconic versus drifty opposition needed to fire Simon's gags. So what if the apartment looks irredeemably Battersea? You gotta try.

'Crime and Punishment', Finborough Theatre, SW10, (0171-373 3842) to 19 Sept; *Oedipus the King*, Bloomsbury Theatre, WC1, (0171-388 8822) to 19 Sept; *The Odd Couple*, Grace Theatre, SW11, (0171-223 3549) to 26 Sept

A fine case of less is Moor

From a slimmed-down classic to riffs on classic films, Sue Wilson casts an eye over two shows currently touring Scotland

It may be a sad reflection on today's truncated attention spans, but there is no denying the sense, on reading the notice announcing that TAG's production of *Othello* runs for three hours, of bracing yourself for a potentially long, hard haul.

Mid-scale touring Shakespeare has a chequered history, to say the least, with too many companies acting as though the text's inherent artistic Brownie points obviate the need for creative effort on their part, or going to the opposite extreme and trying to be too clever by half.

TAG's slimmed-down – personally, at least – version thankfully plots a middle course between these poles, though the direction could certainly be pacier and the staging does feature some strangely jazzed-up elements, presumably in response to TAG's main brief of attracting younger audiences.

Particularly irritating is the use of electronic dance music. This is not to disapprove of the notion on principle, rather the fact that here it is not only out of place but completely superfluous, even where it is

not deleterious to the drama. Mostly, though the seven-strong cast deliver a solid display of mostly old-fashioned virtues, despite the non-period costumes – military uniforms for the men, plain dresses for the women – and futuristic set.

The latter remains something of an enigma, with its tall wire cages half-filled with what look like blue rocks, but serving effectively as a screen for the various episodes of spying and eavesdropping.

Ross Dunsmore's Iago stands out as the finchpin of the show, unusually borrowing certain elements of the similarly inscrutable but generally malevolent wise clowns found elsewhere in Shakespeare. He introduces a sparkle of gleeful comedy into his machinations, in a manner highly reminiscent of Puck's "Lord, what fools these mortals be".

While he also exudes a suitably diabolic venom when appropriate, this more mercurial approach contrasts pointedly with his master's oratorical loftiness and weakness for grandstanding, together with the tendency to be blinded by his own exalted self-image – born of an outsider's insecur-

ities – characteristics sympathetically conveyed in Ade Separa's stately portrayal. Veronica Leer breathes impressive life into the often thankless part of Desdemona, imbuing her with a blend of ardent vivacity and proud natural dignity. Her artless warmth helps set up a resonant opposition via the production's concentration on differences between male and female spheres of experience.

Othello's inexorable poisoning by the green-eyed monster is subtly cast in the light of current anxieties about men's emotional inarticulacy.

There's nothing remotely old-fashioned about Bench-tours' latest invention, *Cornwall*, a joint venture with London's Insomniac Productions, devised in collaboration with writer Michael Duke but it might have helped considerably if there had been the odd nod to tradition.

For all the show's clever multi-media intertextuality – and other such buzz-words – it comes across as a set of stylistic and technical poses struck around a glaring absence of any elucidation. Set in a small, run-down hotel just

south of the Mexican border, where four American gangsters arrive for a rendezvous with the mysterious Smiley on the night before the Day of the Dead, it draws heavily on the conventions of classic film noir. *Overtones of Key Largo* and *Buñuel's Exterminating Angels*, says the programme. So heavily, in fact, that the actors start out lip-synching to a recorded soundtrack modelled on the genre.

This pretence that the play is really a film gradually breaks down as the characters begin to speak from the "scripted" dialogue, and, as the sound track stalls and loops back on itself, gives rise to all sorts of sbezenianisms with time-frames and continuity.

Beyond its welter of hackneyed postmodern juxtapositions, playing with the formal and conceptual differences between film and theatre, any underlying point to the exercise remains utterly elusive.

'Othello', at the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow (0171-429 0022) until Sat, then touring Scotland until 17 Oct; 'Cornwall' is currently on tour

Champagne Charlie still earns a bob or two

Victorian pictorial sheet music offers both cultural insight and small-time investment.
By John Windsor

WHAT SORT of people would gather round the drawing room piano to sing songs about the crash of a Jumbo jet? Or President Clinton's peccadilloes? Or - here's a clue - romantic love at the Westminster Aquarium?

Victorian pictorial sheet music covers - one of the last cheap but truly historic collectables - reveal that the Victorians sang about virtually everything: disasters, wars, scandals, wonders of the age, romance, and everyday tribulations.

About 800 of the 3,000 sheet music covers being offered at Phillips' Bath saleroom on Monday - the biggest collection of them ever auctioned - are Victorian. Dating from the days of the £10 piano when, as we say, people had to make their own entertainment, they are a vivid insight into a white-collar world that was cynical, insensitive, suspicious of authority, yet convivial and determined to look on the bright side. You not only get a glimpse of the Victorians, in the lurid lithographs on the covers, but you hear them, too.

Their echoes have not completely died away, who cannot hum the tunes of "Two Lovely Black Eyes", "If You Want to Know the Time Ask a Policeman", "Yes, We Have No Bananas", "La-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" and "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze"?

Phillips' covers are from the private collection of Nancy Mortimer, a retired nursery nurse aged 70, who began picking up covers for pennies after beginning piano lessons 20 years ago. She is one of only 10 or so collectors in the country - and the only one who lectures. She always gets a round of applause when she appears, usually before women's groups, dressed in a Victorian black velvet dress with tippet, poke bonnet, and a reticule made from jet beads. She displays her covers, plays tape recordings of songs such as "Champagne Charlie", and gets her audience to sing along to "Daisy, Daisy" and "Oh, Mr Porter".

"I've had such fun", she says. "At first, I thought how beautifully colourful the covers looked. Then I started getting interested in the events they commemorated, such as Captain Webb swimming the channel. I had never heard of him."

"It's a thrill in secondhand bookshops wondering what I might find. But when I ask for Victorian sheet music, a lot of them still do not know what I am talking about. I find them tucked away on bottom shelves."

You can still buy Victorian covers from their "golden age", 1880-1890, for a quid or two. Dealers who know what they are charge £5-£10. Victorian and Edwardian covers in the Phillips sale are mostly in lots of 25 to 50, estimated from £60 to £150. The musical sketch, "The Wreck of the Titanic", of 1912, in a lot estimated at £100-£150, contains a selection of ditties that round off with "Excitement on Board", "Lowering the Lifeboats" and "Buried at Sea". Drown in the comfort of your own home. Such fun.

The songs were first performed on the stage of Music Halls, in an engaging innuendo-style with plenty of audience participation that had originated in the old saloons and free



Victorian and Edwardian sheet music is still one area where the pocket-money collector can invest for the future Phillips

ries. They were therefore well suited to the intimacy of the home - especially piano duets of love songs.

There were songs in celebration of the Great Exhibition of 1851, of the Great Eastern steamship, of Royal weddings - even of the penny post. Some songs, such as "Let's Enjoy Life While We Can", popular in the 1850s and 1860s, were designed to uplift audiences who visited the pambroker as often as they did the Music Hall. They were sung in a style laced with irony. As for the "Westminster Aquarium" - it was a popular trysting place for lovers. "Three Nice Old Ladies Went to the Aquarium" is one of the risqué titles on offer in the sale.

The male stars of the Music Hall adopted the role of monocled swells in evening dress, who epitomised the Victorian values of the songs they sang. They were a mixture of chumminess, vanity, sexism and jingoism. (The Great Macdermott, sang: "We

don't want to fight, But by Jingo if we do," coining the word). The top stars were paid more than £100 a week, provided with carriages by theatres and lionised by audiences.

George Leybourne was Champagne Charlie ("Champagne Charlie is m' name, Champagne Charlie is m' game"). He was suspected of accepting back-handers from Moët et Chandon. The most famous of them all was "The Great Vance", a versatile performer who died on stage. Ms Mortimer made contact with Vance's granddaughter who told her that her grandmother, Vance's wife, had never spoken of her husband's stage exploits. She considered them rather sinful.

Even in Victorian times, covers were collected for their artwork - Ms Mortimer's most expensive purchase was a leather-bound album of 20 songs, dated 1864, all with covers by the same early Victorian artist, the dandy and top, John Brandard: she

paid £100. The other great sheet-music artist was another dandy, Alfred Concanen. At least 400 covers by him have been traced. He was a master of lithography who worked from photographs and is best known for outdoor scenes drawn with bravura and lavishly coloured.

There are plenty of Concanens in Phillips' sale. His work fetches higher prices, especially when it shows a famous performer. Two Concanens, one of The Great Vance, the other of Champagne Charlie, are in a lot of 25 covers with the highest estimate in the sale, £150-£200.

The London bookseller and ephemeraist, David Drummond (the "doyen of Cecil Court"), says he could expect to sell a stunning Concanen cover for £50, but his top price so far has been £35. Most of his Victorian covers are priced £5-£12.50. Both he and Ms Mortimer emphasise that collectors should not break the covers from the music. All the sheet

music in the sale is unbroken.

Ms Mortimer's covers, gleaned on outings to towns within reach of her home in Melksham, Wiltshire, is an example of what the pocket-money collector can achieve, even today. Few other collectables mirror so accurately the mores of a bygone age.

At present, their fascination exceeds their investment value, but the standard textbook on them, Ronald Pearsall's *Victorian Sheet Music Covers* (David & Charles, 1972), now out of print, is changing hands among enthusiasts for over £20, which must mean something. Snap up these Victorian gems whenever you spot them. Their time will come.

The Nancy Mortimer collection of coloured sheet music (1830-1970), Monday 14 September (11am): Phillips, 1 Old King Street, Bath, Avon (01225-310609). David Drummond, 11 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, WC2, (0171-836 1142)

Lose your head and you'll lose your money

THE FIXERS



TIM COCKERILL

OUCH! WALL Street is down 500 points, and the FTSE 100 is sure to follow in an equally spectacular manner. That was how the day started, and shortly after 9am the phones started ringing with concerned clients who had caught the latest news.

First on the phone was a Mr Keegan, who immediately asked the burning question: "How bad is it?"

Falling markets are very emotional for investors, especially as the televised news sensationalises the losses, which does nothing to calm investors' nerves. "It is fine," I replied. "The FTSE 100 is only down 120 points."

"How much money will I have lost?"

"Really that all depends on where you have invested," I replied. I then discovered that Mr Keegan was not actually one of our clients but had in the past received literature from us.

"I have got a well spread portfolio, some in the UK, some in America, some in Europe and some in the Far East." A well spread portfolio is, of course, beneficial in times of falling markets but it does depend on the underlying stocks held.

"My main concern," he continued, "is a holding I purchased very recently in Fidelity ASEAN. I thought it was good to buy the Far East after it had fallen so much but now I am not so sure."

"That was a very brave move," I said. "Troubles in the Far East are by no means over, and that particular fund has a very high exposure to Malaysia which has got some fairly major political problems at present as well."

"Should I pull out and cut my losses, or do you think I should stay put?" It was at this stage of the conversation that I was about to discover whether Mr Keegan was a speculator or an investor.

"Did you invest in this fund and all your other funds with the long-term view in mind?" I asked.

"Yes, I do not need the money. It is there for at least five, if not 10, years."

"In that case you really should not worry, the worst thing you can do is to come out of the market at a time when it has fallen heavily. I cannot guarantee that the market will not be lower in the next few months. However, if you have taken a long-term view and do not need the money, then you should sit tight and ride the storm out."

Mr Keegan then asked about two of his other funds, INVESCO European Growth and Fidelity Special Situations. His question this time was whether, even though he has held them both for some time and made good money, he should cash them in and then reinvest the money when the market falls further.

"Both are excellent funds, and there is no need to dispose of either if they fit in with your investment strategy and you have got that long-term perspective," I replied. "Timing the market is

extremely difficult. You can certainly say it is cheaper today than it was a month ago but there is no guarantee it is going to be cheaper in a few days or weeks.

"So, if you did sell your Fidelity Special Situations and INVESCO European Growth funds, you may find that you are left with cash as the market rises. Sit tight."

The big danger in playing the strategy Mr Keegan was suggesting is that you miss some major rises in the markets when sentiment turns. If you look back at market performance it is quite noticeable that, by being out of the market during a small number of days when it rises strongly, your long-term results can suffer seriously.

Despite my words and Mr Keegan's assurance that he was a long-term investor, he persisted in exploring other opportunities that might help him. He next asked: "Should I

By being out of the market during a small number of days when it rises strongly, your long-term results can suffer seriously

invest in a protected fund so that, if the market falls again, I will be safe?"

"I do not see any point in buying a protected fund after the market has fallen; they are for cautious investors taking a long-term view, or they can be used to lower the risk of a portfolio after a long bull run in the market," I said.

"Had you bought a protected fund when the FTSE 100 index reached 6,000, you would be doing very nicely, thank you. But you have got to bear in mind protection costs, and the performance of these funds when the market rises has, in some instances, been disappointing."

"So all told, your advice is to stay put and not move," Mr Keegan said.

"Yes," I replied. "If you have got your investment strategy right at the outset then you can ride out sharp corrections in markets in comfort."

Tim Cockerill is managing director of the independent financial advisers Whitechurch Securities, which is based at 14 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8AE (0117 9442266)

Low inflation turns the tables on endowment mortgages

After years of being out of favour, repayment schemes are all the rage. By Rachel Fixsen

THE REPAYMENT mortgage is back in favour. The image of its main rival, the endowment mortgage, has been well and truly tarnished, and now another sparring partner, the PEP mortgage, is also down in the popularity stakes.

Repayment mortgages now account for 43 per cent of all mortgages taken out, up from 24 per cent five years ago.

Just 32 per cent of all home loans are now endowment mortgages, down from around 80 per cent in the last decade.

Lenders put the change down to low inflation. Sue Anderson, at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says: "When inflation is low there is obviously an advantage to paying your mortgage off, but when inflation is high and is eroding the value of your mortgage, that's not the case."

There are four main types of mortgage repayment: with capital

and interest repayment, each month's payment to the lender consists of interest due on the loan and a certain amount of capital.

In the early years, the payments are mostly interest and very little capital, and the balance shifts towards interest as the term of the mortgage goes on.

The other types are endowment, PEP and pension mortgages.

These are all interest-only mortgages, coupled with an investment product. The borrower pays interest to the lender and premiums into an investment product, the idea being that at the end of the term, the investment portion will have grown large enough to pay off the mortgage in full.

Repayment mortgages are generally slightly cheaper than others. For a couple aged about 40,

monthly payments on a £100,000 loan over 20 years at a capped rate of 6.59 per cent would be £818.28 a month, including term life assurance, according to the independent financial adviser Dawn Slater.

The monthly cost of an endowment mortgage for the same couple at the same rate would be £848.21, while a PEP deal would cost £848.21. Tax relief is available, and would cut these figures by around £15 a month.

Which type of repayment you decide to opt for depends largely on your attitude to risk.

Endowment: and PEP mortgages rely on the performance of investments. Opting for a capital and interest repayment mortgage is the safest way, says Ms Slater. "It's the only way you can guarantee to get the mortgage paid."

The main attraction of endowment and PEP mortgages is that the investment will perform well and provide an extra lump sum.

Some borrowers have found that their endowment policy is not even on track to pay off the mortgage, and have had to increase premiums.

And some of those who surrendered their endowment policies in the early years, perhaps because of divorce, found they got less money back than they had put in because of high charges levied at the start of the policy's life.

Anyway, the prospect of making a large profit is little more than a forlorn hope, says Philip Telford, of the Consumers' Association.

"You may have £10,000 more, but after 25 years think how much that would be worth... and that's if you stay the course."

"Thirty per cent of people have to cash in their endowment policy in the first 10 years," he says.

Ms Slater defends endowment mortgages. Provided you do not cash them in early, traditional with-profits endowment policies have generally done well, she says.

The bad press has centred around certain mortgage providers, while others, including General Accident, have consistently come up trumps, she says.

PEP mortgages became popular in the Nineties. PEPs are far more flexible as investment products and charges are spread much more evenly. However, they are more risky than endowment policies.

Next April they will be replaced with ISAs, (individual savings accounts), and although PEPs can be transferred to ISAs, the choice of

PEP has become more limited recently, ahead of the change.

Many people find that lenders and advisers steer them away from repayment mortgages and towards PEP or endowment mortgages. Repayment mortgages are not portable, it is claimed.

"It's a myth," says Philip Telford. "I don't think that there is a portability problem."

It is true that if you move house during the 25-year term, with a repayment mortgage you have to repay the mortgage and start again with a new term. But there is nothing to stop you taking a shorter mortgage term the next time.

However, in practice the temptation to take out another 25-year mortgage often proves too much to resist. "Most of the time, people want to keep their costs down," says

Ms Slater. "The shorter the mortgage term for a repayment mortgage, the higher the monthly cost will be, because of the capital repayment element."

Financial advisers get more commission for selling an endowment mortgage than for the life insurance that usually goes with a repayment mortgage. Though the commission level is about the same, and can be 33 per cent of premiums paid in the first three years, a typical endowment policy premium would be around 10 times the premium of a term life insurance contract, says Mr Telford.

Of course, a good adviser will recommend the best product for the client, regardless of commission, but watch out for the bad ones.

Dawn Slater Associates: 01635 45325; Consumers' Association: 0171-830 6000; Council of Mortgage Lenders: 0171-440 2255

Management accountants are on a roll. Time to rationalise the training? By Roger Trapp

Engine room vs boardroom

IGNORE FOR the moment the need to rationalise the governance of accountancy, and it is hard to see why the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima) is even considering throwing its lot with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Acca) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa).

By common consent, the management accountants are on a roll. Chartered accountants have tended to look down on a qualification that is associated with factory floors and the engine rooms, rather than boardrooms, of business. But leading firms are now starting to share the views of the recruitment consultants who have for some time been stressing the value of management accountancy to a whole range of businesses.

With the Institute of Chartered Accountants' latest plans to update its training syllabus in danger of being jeopardised by the traditionalists, at least one executive with a Big Five firm has let it be known that his operation would be interested in shifting numbers from the institute's training scheme if a viable alternative emerged.

Such views are a vindication of the vision of Peter Layne, president of Cima, to create out of his organisation, Acca and Cipfa, a body that can rival the institute in size and influence.

However, it is fair to say that the most attractive specialisms would



Accountants with experience of the shop floor are in demand

Glyn Griffiths

be likely to be management accountancy. The certified qualification is hugely popular overseas, but tends to be regarded in the UK as a second fiddle to the Institute's, and the transformation of public sector accounting into something closer to that practised in the private sector may be reducing the need for a full-blown separate qualification.

But management accountancy is, as James Wheeler, chief executive of Hewitson-Walker, points out, popular "in the market at large". By which he means business as a whole, as opposed to the "mini-markets" of the City and public practice. But, he adds, even investment banks have begun taking on graduates with the aim of putting them

through management accountancy training because they have not been totally satisfied with newly qualified chartered accountants.

All these organisations are seeing the high "added value" in the report-writing skills, budgeting and analysis - combined with practical IT skills - that are the management accountant's stock-in-trade.

Jeff Groat, managing director of Robert Half International, says that the popularity of the qualification is largely a "reflection of the changing role of the accountant". The chartered accountant's training may be more rigorous, but the management accountant is reckoned to be "more practical, more commercial and more relevant".

But it is not just employers who are seeing the value of the qualification. Recruitment consultants report that many graduates who previously would not have gone off to the top firms, even if they intended to go into business later, are now opting to go straight there.

People are making a "much more balanced decision about whether to go through chartered accountancy or to go out into the big wide world", says Mr Wheeler.

Mr Groat agrees. There is, he says, a growing appreciation that they may get a wider education through Cima than through the chartered route - though he adds that, highly rated as the management accountancy qualification is in Britain, it is not nearly as well known overseas as the chartered. In an effort to correct this, his company is organising seminars in European cities to explain the role of management accountants.

If foreign companies get that message, then his conviction that management accountancy is "the passport to a career in business" can be borne out.

Russia's got us by the roubles

THE TRADER



IT MIGHT have been better all round if Laura hadn't removed Norman's life-history from the "Obviously made-up CVs" section of Rory's filing system. The look on Norman's face would have been a laugh, if nothing else, and laughs are in short supply round here at the moment.

The problem - surprise, surprise - is Russia, which is finding out the hard way that there's more to being capitalist than drinking Coke. Curiously no one there seems to have considered that it might be easier to reform if you change the people running the country, not just the name of their party. But that's politics for you: anyone bright enough to be good at it is bright enough to steer well clear.

The result of this stupidity is misery all round. "You're not wrong," says Neil. "I mean, we can kiss goodbye to our bonuses for a start." I gently point out that I was actually thinking about the man on the Moscow street, but Neil's having none of it. "They can't have lost more than a few hundred dollars each. That's sod all compared to what I was expecting to pull down this year. They've no right to be miserable at all."

He does have a point about the bonuses. The last time round, I effectively doubled my income for the year. This Christmas, I'll be surprised if there's enough in the coffers to pay for wrapping paper. Not that any of the big cheeses has said anything about how badly we've been hit by the problems in Moscow. Still, if BankAmerica and Deutsche have had to fess up to being caned on their exposure to the teetering former superpower, I find it hard to believe our lot have got away scot-free.

So we just have to sit and wait for the board to let us in on what's happening. "Or we could just find out about it in the *Financial Times*, as usual,"

says Laura, no doubt remembering previous occasions when the hunches "forgot" to tell their staff before they told the journalists. "It's so stupid," she continues. "They must realise how wound up everyone gets wondering if they're waving goodbye to their bonuses or maybe even their jobs, and all because someone's been going: 'A loan, Mr Yeltsin'. Of course. Take double. And don't worry about security."

Jenny the Junior stamps over to take the lunch orders, and announces she's going to the new sandwich place on the other side of the City. "It'll get me out of this dump for at least half an hour," she says. "Well, it's all you lot sitting around like someone's died, just coz you think your bonuses have gone walkabout. You'll be leaving flowers on the steps of the Stock Exchange next. Besides, the support staff don't ever get handouts anyway."

She hasn't gone far when Norman calls her back. "Everybody stay at your desks for a second. I want to have a quick meeting about this memo from upstairs. I think it will bring a smile to your faces."

Laura and I look at each other. Is this the bombshell we've been expecting?

Norman continues: "It's good news. The board is categorically denying that we have been in any way affected by the problems in Russia."

"Oh Laura," I say. "It's even worse than we expected."

IN BRIEF

FIRMS CONSIDERING floating on the stock market should pay more attention to preparing the way, say the accountants Ernst & Young. The firm's survey of more than 500 chief executives of fast-growing companies found that more than a quarter judged their floatations unsuccessful, with nearly two-thirds attributing this to a lack of preparation.

THE TOP 20 accountancy firm Saffery Champness claims its

focus on high-net-worth private clients and owner-managers has been vindicated by strong growth over the past year. The firm said net fees of nearly £22m were well ahead of budget; its position had been strengthened by hiring extra private-client specialists from rival practices.

ALISTAIR DEFRIEZE, director general of the takeover panel, heads the list of speakers at a conference on 29 September intended to

guide practitioners through the workings of the revised City code on takeovers and mergers. The event, which will be addressed by several prominent solicitors, takes place at London's Four Seasons Hotel.

INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES remain positive about their own prospects, despite worries about the economy as a whole, says the St Ives Enterprise Barometer Index. The survey, which

measures views on the business climate by companies in which St Ives invests, shows that most owner-managers expect turnover, profitability and investment to increase or remain stable for the current quarter.

ANTIQUES DEALERS, vehicle hire companies and builders' merchants are among top targets for cheque fraudsters, according to the Equifax, provider of the Transax Cheque Guarantee

Service. The organisation has detected and declined more than £17.6m of fraudulent cheques over the past 24 months.

MANY OF Europe's family-run businesses are failing to monitor key performance indicators, says the Family Business Report. Many of them fail to heed such classic early warning signals as low levels of debts, stock and outstanding orders.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: ACCOUNTANCY, FINANCIAL, LEGAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Hays

International Careers Cruise

"The Elizabethan" Paddle Steamer
Monday evening, 14th September 1998, Charing Cross Pier



Global options

Could you work abroad?

With the increasingly rapid integration of the UK economy with continental Europe and the emerging "global village", have you considered the implications for your finance career?

- Is my qualification truly portable worldwide?
- Is English really the international business language?
- Can I enjoy a career overseas and a UK home address?

This international careers cruise on the Thames has been organised by Hays Accountancy Personnel and Hays International to answer the above questions and address the many other issues facing those recently qualified accountants who are determined to consider all of the options now open to them.

Whether you're looking for a taste of adventure for six months, a two year secondment or to resign, you can find the answers at our informal evening aboard the luxury "Elizabethan" (equipped even for British autumn evenings).

To reserve your place and/or to discuss current options with big five firms recruiting for audit, consultancy, tax and corporate finance roles, call Elizabeth Rumbell on 0171 293 2222. For roles in commerce and industry based abroad or travelling from home, call Matt O'Donnell on 0171 588 1733.

Hays Accountancy Personnel

Hays International

AUCKLAND • CAPE TOWN • DUBLIN • THE HAGUE • HAMBURG • JOHANNESBURG • LONDON • PARIS • PRAGUE • STONEY

FINANCIAL ANALYST

Interest Rates Division of a Global Investment Bank
Competitive Package and Prospects. City

Our client is a global, integrated investment bank. At their London office they are looking to appoint a qualified Management Accountant to play the key role of Financial Analyst to the Interest Rates Committee.

Our client is looking for an ambitious, intellectually agile professional with three to four years' post graduate management accounting experience and credibility at management and board level. Proactive, highly computer literate and an effective team leader, your track record will show you to be an achiever destined for positions of major influence.

In return, we offer an attractive salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send full career details to PO Box No 12824, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

THE INDEPENDENT

To advertise in this section please call

Tom Gore on 0171 293 2610 or

Anita Cassidy on 0171 293 2301.

Virtual Communications, a UK-based business communications and market research agency, seeks a Business Development Manager with responsibility for Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

The successful applicant will have at least 5 years relevant experience and should have a detailed knowledge of the FSU markets. Degree/postgraduate qualification essential and knowledge of an East European language an advantage. Salary £24,000.

Apply with CV to Robert Hadfield, CEO, Virtual Communications Ltd, 32 North End Road, London, W14 0SH.

A leading International Investment Bank requires an Associate to join their energy group in London. The position will be primarily responsible for deal transactions, financial modelling and credit analysis specifically in the Middle Eastern markets.

Candidates must possess:

- A thorough understanding of the Middle Eastern markets
- Detailed knowledge of the energy industry
- Qualified to Masters level
- Fluent in English and Arabic languages

Please forward C.V.'s to PO Box No 12827, The Independent, 17th Floor, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

Launch a new phase in your career



Systems Accountant

Northwood, Middlesex

Salary - c£40k

The Ministry of Defence with an annual budget of over £20bn is fundamentally changing the way it manages its resources and operations. A programme which began in 1996 will put the MoD onto the same footing as a commercial organisation, moving from a cash-based accounting system to resource accounting and budgeting (RAB), with annual reports and accounts. The ultimate aim is to measure defence capability and full costs, and to apply the commercial practice of adopting techniques and tools to enable more efficient management of resources at all levels.

At this exciting time of fundamental change, we need to strengthen our change team with accountants who have finely tuned commercial skills to manage the continued implementation and operation of RAB. It's a chance to assign a unique perspective to your career, develop management skills and be instrumental in one of the biggest changes you are ever likely to witness.

You will be a qualified CCA account with at least three years' experience in a commercial environment. Excellent communication skills, an ability to provide effective briefing to all management levels should be coupled with strong technical skills and a good knowledge of IT/MIS and SUN accounting systems.

As Systems Accountant you will be required to ensure that the integrity of the systems used to implement Resource Accounting and Budgeting in CINCFLET is maintained at all times. Reporting to the Chief Financial Accountant, you will be responsible for the development and maintenance of sound, flexible management information systems to meet CINCFLET's needs.

This appointment will be for an initial period of three years, with the possibility of an extension to five years or permanency. A relocation package and membership of the non-contributory civil service pension scheme is available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 25th September 1998) write to Mrs J Applegate, Ministry of Defence, Acc Pers, Rm20, Pinegate East, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA1 5AB. Telephone 01225 449562, alternatively e-mail: cm(per)s2.mod@GTMNET.GOV.UK

Candidates may be considered for other posts within the MoD.

We are an equal opportunities employer and are fully committed to equal opportunity policies. The Ministry of Defence positively welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of racial origin, sex or disability.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Finance Manager

£35,466 - £37,909 incl

36 hours per week

(This is a re-advertisement, previous applicants need not apply)

This third tier post has been recently created to strengthen the financial advice and support function within the Education Services Directorate. The postholder will lead on progressing the Council's financial devolution programme, specifically the training and support needed for central services. S/he will be responsible for ensuring that operational managers develop the necessary financial and business skills to successfully manage the changes in school funding that will be introduced on 1 April 1999 ("Fair Funding").

The successful candidate must hold a recognised accountancy qualification (CIPFA or CCA equivalent) and should ideally have experience of Local Authority financial management at a senior level.

For an application form and further details for the above post, please send an A4 size stamped addressed envelope to Education Personnel (CS) 48 Station Road, Wood Green, N22 7TY, quoting reference number EP/CS/163. Closing date: 2 October 1998

Applications are particularly welcome from the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Community who are currently under representation.

The Council operates a no smoking at work policy

HARINGEY COUNCIL

"Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer."

Faculty Of Access, Science & Humanities

Faculty Finance And Administration

Manager (Ref: AH/592/IND)

£22,521 - £25,050 pa inc.

Full-time

Cassio Campus

The Faculty of Access, Science and Humanities is very large and diverse offering a range of courses in general education, adult education, basic skills, science and performing arts and provides Learning Support for students across the College.

We need an analytical thinker with a flexible approach to problem solving and systems management to play a key role in the Faculty's business planning and financial management processes and to manage a variety of financial and administrative functions. Of graduate calibre, you must have at least five years' management experience in a financial/administrative role, supported by a professional qualification in a management or financial discipline. Successful experience in constructing and managing financial procedures is essential, together with knowledge of IT software packages and proven ability to apply them in a financial and administrative environment.

Closing date: Midday Monday 21 September 1998
Interviews to be held: Friday 2 October 1998

Job description and application forms for all posts available from the Personnel Assistant (Recruitment), West Herts College, Cassio Campus, Langley Road, Watford WD1 3RH. Tel: 01923 812478 (24 hour answering machine). Fax: 01923 812475. Please quote reference number and job title.

West Herts College

exists to educate and train people to achieve their full potential

TEL: 0171 293 2222

ACCOUNTANCY, FINANCIAL, LEGAL

Wanted.

Mathematicians
who are tired of
making up
the numbers.

Are you getting the degree of job satisfaction you expected when you graduated? The responsibility? The intellectual stimulation? The personal rewards? The buzz? Are you making a real contribution to society beyond paying tax? Teaching needs people who want to use their skills and experience to the full: people with academic ability, a flair for communication and the talent to inspire. In return, it gives what very few careers can: the chance to change hundreds of lives, a unique place in the mind of everyone you influence and job satisfaction that doesn't stop when you retire. We are looking for qualified, motivated applicants with a Mathematics background. You'll be fully involved (and stretched) from the day you start. No fees are payable for the Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE). If you think you have it in you to bring out the best in others, please visit our website at www.teach.org.uk or telephone us on 01245 454 454.

NO-ONE FORGETS A GOOD TEACHER.

To: Teacher Training Agency Communication Centre, FREEPOST ANG205, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3ZZ. I would like to learn more about becoming a teacher. Please send me an information pack.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Current Status: ☐ Student ☐ Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐ Retired _____ Special Teaching Interest: ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Subjects: _____

Accountant? Consultant? IT Business Analyst?

The question is, could you impact a major transformation
of accounting processes and systems?

£35K-£65K plus bonus and banking benefits · London

With a growing range of businesses spanning the entire financial services sector, there could be no better time to join NatWest.

Within Group Finance at the corporate head office, a significant business transformation programme is being launched which involves a fundamental review of all business processes and underlying systems supporting the group's financial accounting and reporting. A long-term strategy aimed at group-wide integration has been mapped out by a visionary senior management team, and a nucleus of high calibre 'change drivers' is now being recruited to steer the programme through analysis, planning and project management to implementation; in other words, to turn the vision into reality.

It will be a complex undertaking, calling for creative solutions and involving some hard decisions but, by the same token, a challenge that will appeal to graduates (possibly with MBAs) with at least three years' commercial experience, and ideally an understanding of

financial accounting processes or systems. A successful track record in business process analysis and re-design - gained from an accounting, consulting or business analysis background - would be ideal, though it is of less importance than the quality of your intellect and analytical ability. A talent for practical problem-solving, a natural ability to work as part of a high quality team and excellent interpersonal skills will be key. We are looking for results-oriented achievers who are keen to make a major strategic impact, and whilst financial services experience could be an asset, it is by no means essential. Character, calibre and credibility will be the main factors.

To apply, please telephone our consultant Conrad Hills on 0171-253 7172 during office hours. Alternatively, please send full career details, quoting ref: 1912, to him at JM, Chandos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax: 0171-253 0420. E-mail: response@jms.co.uk

 **NatWest**

More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc seeks to provide equality of opportunity for all applicants.

WALCH & SCHURTI THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN QUALIFIED SOLICITOR

A leading law firm in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, offers a minimum 2-3 year position to a qualified solicitor.

Applicants must speak and read German, have fluency in English, be interested in taking up a challenging position abroad, have a flexible working approach and previous experience in company and trust law.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity of working in close co-ordination with the senior partners, in the fields of company and fiduciary law in both litigation and consultancy.

The position allows a high quality of life in an attractive area of Europe.

Applications written in German (including a full C.V. which can be in English) should be sent to:

WALCH & SCHURTI
Attorneys at Law
P.O.B. 1611, Zollstrasse 9
FL-9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein

CORPORATE FINANCE ASSOCIATE

Competitive Remuneration Package
London

An Associate is required to join a business specialist team within an expanding Corporate Finance Division. The role will involve the analysis of government accounts, external debt and other government financial statistics for client presentation.

Candidates should be MBA qualified and will have gained related project experience in working with governments in CIS countries. Fluency in English and Russian is essential.

Please reply to P.O. Box No 12824,
The Independent, 17th Floor, One
Canada Square, London E14 5DL

CORPORATE FINANCE EXECUTIVE Competitive Remuneration Package LONDON

An executive is required to join a business specialist team within an expanding Corporate Finance Division. The role will involve the preparation of pitches to companies, US/European company analysis and valuations and the creation of strategic ideas for clients and potential clients.

Candidates should have an MBA from a US business school and will have broad international experience of strategy analysis, mergers and acquisitions and valuations in Corporate Finance. Fluency in English and French is essential.

Please reply to Box No. 12821, The Independent,
1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

COME ALONG TO ... LONDON'S PREMIER ACCOUNTANCY RECRUITMENT EVENT

the ACCOUNTANCY CAREER FAIR

AND MAKE YOUR CAREER MOVE!

Junior Clerical • Ledgers • Billers • Cashiers • Payroll
• Credit Control • Bookkeepers • Assistant Accountants
• Supervisors • Part Quals • Auditors • Analysts
• Fully Quals • Senior Accountants

London's top Accountancy Recruitment Consultants will be on hand to advise on the opportunities available to you, talk about the current accountancy job market, offer plenty of valuable advice on how to secure your next career move, all under one roof.

If you are working in any accountancy environment, whatever your position, from a Junior Clerical to a Fully Qualified Senior Accountant, then the Accountancy Career Fair will show you how to advance your career. It's the ideal opportunity to discuss your requirements with experts in an informal atmosphere.

The Accountancy Career Fair will also offer you the opportunity to enter some of the exhibitors' individual competitions and get practical information about career development, training courses and further professional qualifications.

The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2
Nearest to Holborn, Covent Garden

Tuesday September 15th 1998
12noon-8pm (Last admission 7.30pm)
• Refreshments Available • Admission Free •

Accountancy, Financial & Legal
Appointments also appear on page 13.

SECURITIES INSTITUTE

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Securities Institute (Services) Limited (SIS) is a fast growing company which provides a wide range of courses, seminars and publications to the securities industry. It is part of the Securities Institute, the professional body for securities practitioners.

City firms greatly value the high quality of SIS' products and there are considerable opportunities for growth, not least from the increasing importance given by regulators to training and competence matters. The company has a turnover of £2.5 million and has operated in 22 countries.

SIS now requires a Managing Director who will be a Business Developer with a proven track record of commercial success to lead it to new levels of influence and profitability.

The Managing Director may have a marketing, publishing or training background, and a good understanding of the dynamics of the securities industry would be ideal. What is essential is an ability to identify and exploit business opportunity, with full commitment to the ethos of the Securities Institute.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package,
including profit share. Interested?
Please send your c.v. and current salary details to:

KAREN DALTON - PERSONNEL MANAGER
The Securities Institute, Century House
24 Monument Street
London EC3R 8AQ
Tel. No 0171 626 3191

PROFESSIONALISM | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE

Marine litigation department of international shipping law
firm wishes to recruit a

LAWYER

with experience in disputes relating to the carriage of goods by sea, admiralty and in rem proceedings, charterparties, marine pollution, environmental law, international arbitration law and carriage of goods by air.

Applicants should have not only a good academic record - if possible to Master of Law level - but also practical experience of evidence collection, both on land and at sea, together with advocacy skills.

The successful applicant will be expected to assist in expanding our practice by the preparation and delivery of publications and seminars to clients.

Please apply by CV and covering letter with copy supporting documentation to Box No 12824, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Euromanagers Eurengineers

Join the unique
international recruitment event...
... to meet and interview with over 50 companies
At one time, in one place

PARIS 15-16 December 1998

Are you a graduate
or a professional with:

- A University degree or equivalent
- Between 0 and 5 years professional experience
- Fluency in at least 2 European languages (including English)
- High academic achievement
- Outstanding interpersonal skills and intellect
- International mobility and/or exposure
- Availability for employment in 1999

Then apply to:

Euromanagers-Eurengineers 1998

If, after applying, you are selected by at least one of the participating companies, EMDS will arrange your interview with these leading corporations for openings in:

- consulting • engineering • finance • general management • human resources • IT • legal • logistics • distribution • marketing • production • purchasing • R & D • Sales • ...

The 1997 Euromanagers-Eurengineers recruitment event was a great success with 50% of participants receiving job offers.

Participating Companies:

ABN-Amro • Adair-Salomon • Amadeus • American Management Systems (AMS) • Andersen Consulting • Andri • Barclays Bank PLC • Barclays Capital • Bayer • Berendsmann • BMW • Bore-Alien • Hamilton • Boston Consulting Group • BT • Commerzbank • Daimler-Benz • Deutsche Bank • Dresdner Kleinwort Benson • Hella AG • Hoechst AG • Hermes Europe Raffinerie • Hewlett-Packard • ICI • ING Group • Ingram Micro • L'Oréal • Lucent Technologies • Mannesmann Sachs • Renault • McIlhenny & Co. • PetroFina • Philip Morris Europe • Phillips • Pirelli • Pirelli-Finmeccanica • Procter & Gamble • Procter World Int. • Reuters • RWE • SAP • SCA Hygiene Products Holding • Scottish & Newcastle • Shell Services Int. • Société Générale • Total • Toyota Motor Europe • UCB • Volvo Securite Habitacle • Volkswagen • Wella Group Co. • WestLB

To ask for a copy of the Handbook & Application Form simply send your request with your name, address and date of birth via fax, e-mail or mail to:

EMDS International SA

Rte: EM-EE 98

15 rue Marche

B - 1050 Brussels

Belgium

Fax: +32 2 538 82 22

e-mail: euromanagers@emds.beCOMMERZBANK 

Apply directly through our website: <http://www.emdsnet.com/euromanagers>
If you have more than 5 years experience please apply to our Executive Career Fairs event at:
<http://www.emdsnet.com/executive>

THE INDEPENDENT

To advertise in this section please call

Tom Gore on 0171 293 2610 or
Anita Cassidy on 0171 293 2301.

Sept 10 1998

nt?
ation

ATE FINANCE
OCIATE

FINANCE EXECUTIVE

THE EVENING

EMTS

IDENT

2610
93 2301

Your desk says more about you than your CV - and bosses know it. By Kate Hilpern

The secret life of desks

Are you prone to work-space customisation? Are there so many photos, pot-plants and Jarvis Cocker posters surrounding your desk that the phrase "taking work home" might as well be replaced by "bringing home to work"? Or is your desk in such excellent nick that you can actually see your own reflection in it?

Whatever the answer, it probably says a lot more about you than you think. A recent study by recruitment agency Adecco Alfred Marks claims that, simply by analysing a desk's contents, employers can learn more about their employees than by studying a CV. "Desks can reveal their owners' innermost secrets, inhibitions, lifestyle and professional ambitions," explains psychologist Donna Dawson, who carried out the study. What's more, your worktop is very often the first impression that people get of you - and, in business, first impressions count.

According to Dawson, there are six principal "desk personalities", two of which win hands down for tidiness. But since they are almost opposites in terms of character, it takes close analysis to differentiate them accurately.

"First, the desk of the 'super-organised' desktop personality is functional and neat with no fuss or frills. Likely to be inhabited by a super-efficient PA or secretary, this desktop is largely taken up by essential office equipment, leaving little room for clutter, save for a few neat piles of paperwork.

Sounds like someone completely lacking personality? Well, you would be wrong because, according to Dawson, personal relationships are a priority to the "super-organised". "This personality wants to feel needed and is charming and helpful when relied upon. But the no-nonsense neatness also masks a small chip on its owner's shoulder due to perceived lack of appreciation."

The "show desktop" personality, on the other hand, has obliterated any signs of personality. Also ultra-neat, this desk differs from "super-organised" by its size - if only because its owner is likely to be a departmental head or high-flying PA who is either expelling his boss's desk or projecting an image of what she believes the boss's desk ought to resemble. Don't be too surprised if you see this person straightening up pens on your desk.

Bare space is essential to this personality largely because space spells affluence. Think of the acres of space on the desks of Tony Blair or Bill Clinton when they are photographed seated behind them. Dawson explains: "Although friendly within their own social group, once behind the 'show desk' they adopt a professional mask and forced bonhomie where necessary. This personality is astute and good at assessing strengths and weaknesses so can never be caught off guard."

Then there are the two narcissistic personalities. Most offices have at least one "trophy" desktop personality who insists on displaying certificates of accomplishment,



Portrait of the person as a desk space. The area where you work is more of a signature than you realise

Neville Elder

whether it be on the rugby pitch or the latest Windows course. The old photograph taken in some luxurious holiday resort or ashtray from the Middle East often sneaks their way in, too. "On the surface this desk appears slightly haphazard," explains Dawson, "but each trophy will be strategically and deliberately placed for maximum effect."

"These people are natural leaders and motivators because they think big, but they need to be appreciated or they are prone to discontent, tantrums and sulking."

The "personality extension" desktop personality, however, doesn't care where her postcards and ashtrays are from. In fact, it seems she doesn't care where any of her personal belongings come from, provided they cocoon her entire workstation. Here you'll find more make-up than a Boots cosmetic counter, not to mention all the cuddly mascots and flowers that get

turned into potpourri at a later date. Mini larders appear by PCs along with sachets of sugar, despite being freely available from the office kitchen. "These personalities are always on the go," explains Dawson. "They need constant entertainment, and, although friendly and talkative, are not always discreet."

Finally, there are the chaotic types. The "organised chaos" desktop personality would love to be tidy but panics if everything isn't to hand. "He or she uses a filing system consisting of many different piles of paper, overflowing on the floor and under the desk," says Dawson. "Crucial deadlines are remembered by a sophisticated, multiple-sticky-note method."

This individual is a workaholic, but the chaos leads to stress and worry, meaning coffee and fags are often needed as constant stimulants. Despite the hysteria, however, this person likes a good chat to break the

monotony and is a good, flexible cross-thinker.

More interesting clutter surrounds the workstation of the "creative chaos" desktop personality - books, for instance, or drawings and photos revealing an agile and creative mind. Dawson says: "Though occasionally distracted, this personality is a great lateral thinker and a good source of ideas. Like the 'organised chaos' desk owner, this type needs to have things at hand, but only knows vaguely where everything is, and work is often misplaced. Modern technology does not feature strongly on the creative chaos desk."

But what about the recent widespread introduction of clean desk policies? Some companies do not even allow employees to keep personal items in top drawers, so how on earth can they reveal anything about their owners? Judi James, a well known business trainer, claims that this just means bosses look more

carefully in other areas, a favourite being under your desk where you put your feet. "It's a bit like standing in front of someone in a smart business suit and checking out their shoes. They often say a lot more than the rest of the image put together - in terms of whether they are new, polished or colour co-ordinated."

But the most obvious personality giveaway in the millennium office, claims James, will be the screen-saver. "Flying Through Space is a sure sign of a dull personality while the changing shapes which resemble complex building scaffolding can show high intellect."

Then there are the ego-maniacs who have their names scrolled across the screen in various sizes and, of course, the restless and insecure workers who change their e-mail addresses every five minutes. "Even the most orderly employees, claims James, will never obliterate clues to personality altogether. "It's just not in their interests."

How to put the perk back into your work

Pep me up before my get-up-and-go goes, says Debbie Barham

THERE IS, unfortunately, no medical equivalent of Viagra for giving limp office staff an instant pick-me-up. And at times - particularly now, with summer waning and the days drawing in - even the most ardent of workaholics needs a bit of extra motivation to get up in the morning.

When your waste-paper bin basketball skills are on a par with Magic Johnson, your Blu-Tack supply has metamorphosed into an intricate scale replica of the Eiffel Tower and you can immediately recognise individual pigeons on your window ledge simply by their distinctive tail feathers, you can confidently assume that you are in immediate need of some extra oomph.

How you tackle the situation varies from job to job. Here are a few strategies that you could employ to put some perk back in your work.

Ginkgo Biloba

"The life force of the Amazon" - so if your job involves a lot of hunting things, battling through dense creepers, or shooting at people with poisoned darts this could be the perfect choice (and you are probably in the customer relations field). Ginkgo comes in various forms: capsules, chewing-gum (handy if you run out of Blu-Tack) and strange little phials with names like "Energy Bomb" - expensive at £1.99 each.

Massage

If your colleagues have been rubbing you up the wrong way, a good punting can often relieve the tension. These days, pressing the flesh is not just restricted to high-flying execs - many bosses, wary of RSI-related tribunals, now offer a weekly massage as a perk of the job. This should, however, be done in some privacy by a professional masseur. If the hands squeezing your bod belong to anyone else, motivate yourself to bring a harassment suit against them.

Power napping

What is new about offices providing employees with a place to grab 40 winks during the working day? Well, these days it's not called "your desk". If a futon suddenly appears in the office, this could mean that your boss is embracing the concept of "power napping". And if we are coming into line with other European business practices, why not take a siesta as well?

Fresh air

Any smoker in a non-smoking office won't rate the idea of "going outside for some fresh air" as being at all motivational. But a brisk stroll round the block can perk you up (make it obvious, though, that you are not just basking off and going home early) - even just opening a window makes a difference. Genuinely fresh air, though, is a rare commodity in the average city office. Real purists fork out for a canister of pure oxygen, although the price is likely to leave you gasping. Fortunately, Britain will

soon have its first American-style "oxygen bars", where - unlike president Clinton - you can inhale to your heart's content.

Pep pills

Pills such as ProPlus are basically just another way to obtain a quick caffeine fix, without all that tedious business of walking over to the coffee machine, exchanging pleasantries/insults/gossip with your colleagues, wondering why the machine has given you ortal soup when you pressed "cappuccino", and so on. But watch out - if you overdo the caffeine pills, your get-up-and-go will turn into get-up-tight-and-go-completely-loopy.

Juice

Remember that office nerd who used to turn up with his little plastic lunch box of raw carrots and carton of V8? He's about to become the height of health-conscious hipness. Juice bars are usurping gourmet coffee joints as the place for go-getters to go when they need a buzz. Try a Mega Detox (beetroot, carrot, celery and apple, with a spirulina or blue-green algae supplement for that extra kick) - or a Stress Buster Combo (carrot, spinach, lemon with added wheatgrass and Vitamin C). If you are not lucky enough to have a local juice joint yet, then maybe you could replace the office kettle with an electric juicer?

Yoga

Even Peter Mandelson has recently discovered the joys of yoga (though the lotus position is unlikely to challenge him). He is already supple enough to bend over backwards and disappear up his own posterior. Learn a few simple breathing exercises and you can practise them even at your desk. More advanced techniques, such as yoga flying, are best saved for after work (requesting permission to bounce around on a mattress in a variety of difficult physical positions may give your boss the wrong idea about you). The drawback? In busier offices, attaining any degree of mental tranquillity could be a tough one.

Gadgets

Starting at little flashing lights on a screen may not sound like the perfect way to revitalise you after a long stint at the computer - gadgets such as the "Mind Lab" might work for some people, but are best avoided if you're epileptic or technophobic, or do not want to sit at your desk wearing Star Trek goggles (this will probably just invigorate your colleagues to laugh at you). Similarly, "motivational" cassettes are invariably voiced by earnest American men with too many Christian names (eg Doctor Ernest Ernest Ernest Richard Keene the Third, Jr) and tend to be more demoralising than revitalising. My advice? Swap the tape for Agadoo and boogie round the office for five minutes. If your boss asks, just pretend that it is dictation.

The boss's 'exes' file

ONE OF the things you do if you're a PA is deal with the mail. So naturally, when the PA's away, the boss expects the temp to know what to do with every letter that comes in. And what you do do is pick the brains of the people working around you about memos, invoices, statements, magazines, slips of pink paper with holes punched in them.

Which means that, sometimes, you make a blooper. Ellen Armitage is one of those bosses who takes three-hour lunches while her underlings slog it out over a sandwich at their desks; one of those bosses who says she has a meeting on the dot of 4.45 while the rest of the department stays until eight each night; one of those bosses who always, but always, manages to blame cock-ups on someone else. She pockets corporate freebies - tickets, trips, bottles of booze, pens with advertisements on - before they reach the rest of the department. She was once heard on the telephone telling a crony how proud she was of how she kept her slaves in line. There are 17 people working beneath her, cramped into a room 20ft by 15 because she refuses to



THE TEMP

confront management about health and safety. "I lived with it," she says. "Now you can, too."

So there I am, paper knife in hand, rubber thimble on my right thumb to protect against paper cuts and those ragged slashes you get from careless contact with staples, when I open one of those orange envelopes with the boxes on the front for internal recycling, and out falls a filled-in expenses form with her name at the top and a fistful of receipts tacked on with a paperclip.

I look at it for a bit, wonder what I'm supposed to do with it. Then I take it over to Sue, who tends to be quite helpful. "Any idea what I'm supposed to do with this?"

Sue takes it, glances, then peers. "My God," she says. "Carey," says Sue, "come here a minute."

Carey takes it and says: "Oh My Gaaad." I'm still standing there going "What?" as the entire department rushes over, going "I don't believe it" and "Christ on a bike."

"Where did you get this?" asks Carey. "It just came down in the internal post," I say. "Why? What's wrong? What have I done?" And she grabs me, kisses me and tells me I'm a genius, that's what. "The MD's PA must have sent this back to her by accident rather than forwarding it to accounts," she says. "We've been trying to get a look at her 'exes' for months, but she always takes them upstairs by hand."

"Right," says Jamie, sitting down. "Let's see. Sue, she didn't take you out to lunch on the 18th, did she?" "Lunch?" says Sue. "She's never even offered me a sandwich." "Well, she spent £50 on you, apparently. And £40 on taking me to lunch on the 13th. And you?" - he nods at Mike - "accompanied her on a fact-finding mission to Bournemouth last Sunday." "Ogodogod," says Sue, squirming in her chair. Mike stabs a receipt for £170 from a Turkish restaurant. "Look!" he crows. "Her daughter's

birthday party! What's that?" Carey leans through the sheet. "Entertaining clients," Mike cackles. "Wonder what the cheese will say when he finds out the clients are 12 years old?" "Samples!" cries Jamie. "Samples from Chanel?" "Samples!" says Maria. "I know what that sample is. She's been wearing it on her arse for the last three weeks."

Jamie bashes me on the back with the violence of one who is well pleased. "You're a blimmin' star!" he cries. "We're going to get you so drunk tonight you won't believe!" They all fall quiet as the enormity of their discovery sinks in, then start jumping around and hugging each other.

Then Sharon shouts a warning from by the door. Sue shoves the fatal document in her bottom drawer, and they all scurry back to their desks. Ellen Armitage enters the room, smoothing her Chanel skirt over her hips. Everyone bends over their work, rattling furiously at keyboards. No-one meets anyone's eye. Ellen eyes them like a lizard; she knows something's up. "You're all very quiet," she says. "What's up? Someone died or something?"

CLASSIFIED

GLOBAL NANNIES UK Ltd
Specialists in the Recruitment of Nannies, Au Pairs, and Childminders.
PARENTS: Are you looking for Experienced or Qualified Nannies?
LOOK TO GLOBAL NANNIES UK
FOR:
Guarantee - thorough safety checks on all our nannies.
Guarantee - checks on all references and qualifications.
Guarantee - visits and interviews on all our Nannies at their place of work.
Extra care is taken when looking for the right placement for you and your family, the checks that we provide are important and necessary.
Nannies are you looking for many positions LOOK TO GLOBAL NANNIES UK.
We guarantee immediate work for all our nannies.
For five infant, Pre-natal, Temporary Nannies.
For Immediate Placement Call GLOBAL NANNIES UK.
0181 691 0222 / 01622 687148

NANNIES PLUS & CANONBURY
Professional Service for all your childcare requirements
NANNIES - AU PAIRS - BABYSITTERS
Permanent, Temporary, Part Time or Shared
Contact your Local Office
SWISS COTTAGE N. & S. London 0171 624 4423
HACKNEY 0171 933 9976
CHISWICK West and South London 0181 480 6148
HIGHGATE North London 0171 263 4477
Currently recruiting experienced Nannies and Teachers to join our team of temporary workers
General enquiries to our MILL HILL head office
Tel: 0181 201 0782 or Fax 0181 859 5433

Legal Notices
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES UK LTD
SERVICES FOR GAS CUSTOMERS
Emergency supplies of gas to homes and businesses.
The report covering the 3 months from the 1st of January 1998 to the 31st of March 1998 is available on request.
Emergency Supply UK Ltd (Emergency Gas Supply) Ltd
Tel: 01453 750000

Health & Leisure

MCKINLEY & YOUNG RATH OIL
A non medicinal therapy oil warms and relaxes everyday muscular joint aches and pains the way nature intended.
SPORTING BALM
For the natural athlete relax away those niggles and sprains from the natural way, a special blend of oils and Cocoa Butter will warm and relax.
£12.99 Inc. P&H 40g
Accounted by N.M. Trading Standards
MCKINLEY & YOUNG
P.O. BOX 8502
11 HILL STREET
ARDBRISAN
KA22 5YB
ACCESS - VISA - M/CARD
CREDIT CARD HOTLINE
FREEPHONE: 0800 9694108

Unusual Gifts
A NEWSPAPER for more special days, 1992-1998, most often special days, ideal birthday gift, Christmas gift, New Year gift, etc.
Call: 0191 488 8222. Or CALL: 0191 488 8222.

THE INDEPENDENT Nanny Classifieds
If you're an independent reader who needs a Nanny, why not advertise this with us. Call Sohan McCall today on:
Ph: 0171 293 2347 Fax: 0171 293 3156

ADULT CHAT
08961 109143

Top Class Nannies
Nannies - Mothers Help - Au Pairs - Nannies - Homecare - Childminders - Babysitters - Part Time - Full Time - Permanent - Temporary - Part Time - Shared - Oversee Dept.
0181 748 4868
London Office
271-273 King Street
Hammer Smith
W6 9LZ
Riverscourt Park

Cultural awareness can mean the difference between success and failure. By Kate Hilpern

When it is polite to burp

WHEN YOUR boss's French client signals a V-sign to you across the conference table, you could be forgiven for being upset. But to her, it merely indicates the need for a cigarette. When your boss's Saudi Arabian client refuses the company gift that took you an entire lunch time to choose, you could be forgiven for feeling furious. But to him, giving gifts with your left hand is an insult. And when the new client from Bahrain lets out an almighty burp after eating the last Danish pastry, you could be forgiven for finally having enough of all this rudeness and taking the rest of the day off. But to him, it is a sign of appreciation.

No wonder, then, that it is finally being recognised that to get on in the British office environment - where companies are increasingly in pursuit of European and global trade - it is essential to be aware of cultural blunders. "Too many office staff assume that, just because they can't speak their language, there's no hope of creating any kind of impression with a Chinese client," explains Angelena Boden, author of *The Cultural Cakes* pocketbook. But body language, attitude and preferences in food and drink are just a few of the ways you can screw up and even cause a deal to be lost.

Indeed, Judi James, author of *Bodytalk* (£9.95, the Industrial Society) says that only 7 per cent of the impact of any message is verbal, 38 per cent is tone of voice, and 55 per cent is non-verbal. So if you smile at an Italian, it is seen as polite; but if you do the same to a Korean, you will be seen as mega-pushy, as smiles are reserved for personal relationships.

Britain has one of the worst reputations for unwittingly insulting other nationalities. Anthony Sell, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority, explains: "Britain has acquired a reputation as a country that does things its way and if the overseas visitor understands and adapts, so much the better."

New research from the University of Luton has shown that a vast number of small- and medium-size UK companies are suffering because

they are simply not making the effort. Nearly half of the responding companies that proved less profitable at exporting, used agents only when doing business abroad - putting a barrier between themselves and potential clients.

For the PA or secretary, greetings and courtesies must be spot on - if only because you are often the first company representative a foreigner sees. Boden stresses: "The two golden rules are never to make judgements just because someone doesn't do as the British do, and always to take the lead from the other person."

According to John Mole, author of *Mind Your Manners: Managing Business Cultures in Europe*, the telephone is one of the biggest danger areas. "Imagine a foreign client hearing, 'Just bear with me a moment'. It will be totally incomprehensible. Alternatively, imagine them being spoken to in the crisp, forbidding telephone manner British people are so fond of. When you're not used to it, it probably seems very rude." Humour, he says, is another

liability. "Crack a joke to a German who is about to enter a meeting and it won't be well received. That's not because Germans don't have a sense of humour; it's just that humour has no place in business. Firms, on the other hand, seem to love a good joke to break the ice." Funniness is important, too. "It is classic in Britain that a 9am appointment starts at 9.15am, but if you're Dutch or Scandinavian, not starting promptly would be extremely impolite."

Even if there is no language barrier, *futz* can be made even when dealing with North Americans, explains Boden. "Canadians can become very prickly if you assume they are from the United States, and if you give an American a business lunch in which the portions and choice are small and there is no iced water on the tables, you'll just be fulfilling their worst stereotypes about Britain."

Where languages do differ, experts agree that it is worth making a slight effort. Richard Branson recently told the *Electronic Telegraph*:

"When I was in Japan setting up Virgin's businesses, I managed to learn a few words of Japanese. Just to see the smiles on people's faces made me realise how important it can be."

The University of Luton recently won backing from the European social fund for a project worth £5.6m to implement remedial action. Eamon Keenan, project manager of Languages and Culture for Business (LCB), explains: "Our training targets one individual, such as a PA or secretary, who can go back to their company and reach everyone else. Some companies even have to look at their names. Vauxhall Nova realised that marketing in Spain would be a bit of a problem since 'no va' means 'does not go' in Spanish."

Companies who lag behind culturally can even go under. The LCB project director Frank Burdett, cites one company where receivers were called in. In a filing cabinet, they discovered an order from Germany so big that it could have saved the business. Nobody had been able to understand it.



Virgin hope this message impresses clients around the world

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

"Legal Eagles"

U.S. LAW FIRMS

Three of our City clients URGENTLY need to fill the following vacancies:

EXPERIENCED PARALEGAL. Min. twelve months experience in the U.S. corporate environment with American law firm. £38K min. plus benefits.

LEGAL SECRETARY. Min. twelve months legal experience. W4W with Windows '95. Min. 70wpm. You can expect 100% typing workload, paid overtime and usual benefits. £22K to start.

LEGAL SECRETARY. No previous legal experience needed. W4W and Excel. Min. 70wpm. Responsible role, with 40% admin support content. Paid overtime and good benefits after qualifying period. Min. £22K.

Thinking about a change? We are always looking for good legal secretaries and experienced paralegals, as well as assistant solicitors and London-based U.S. associates.

Fax: 0171 448 5077

Tel: 0171 448 5005

Mobile (until 8pm) 07771 604740

Robert Coleman Associates

2 London Wall Buildings,

London Wall, London EC2M 5PP

LEGAL SECRETARY

Fast, accurate legal secretary required.

Legal experience and MS87 knowledge preferable. Busy position.

Please send CV with expected salary requirements to:

Mrs M. Wilson,

12 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BH

Tel: 0171 493 3993

AUDIO SECRETARY

For W1 Surveyors,

60wpm, General office duties.

£15,000pa

Tel: 0171 493 3993

RECEPTIONIST

We are a rapidly expanding software company based in the City.

Due to internal promotion, we need an experienced Receptionist to work on our busy front Reception Desk Switchboard.

We are looking for a confident, friendly, well presented person with an excellent telephone manner and good communication skills. You will need to be well organised as this role also includes arranging appointments and meeting and greeting customers. Working in this busy environment you will be cool under pressure and work well on your own initiative. You will have at least one year's experience in a similar role and a working knowledge of MS Office would be advantageous.

Interested? Please send CV with covering letter quoting Ref: 114 and current salary to the HR Manager, City Networks Limited, 1st Floor, 386 Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5UP. Written applications only. No telephone or agency applications, please.

CityNetworks

West End Publishers require a

Production Assistant

Good organisational skills and the ability to prioritise a varied workload, often under pressure are essential.

Some experience of magazine production ideal, but not essential.

£14,000 - £15,000 pa

Please send your CV to:

Claire Gibbon,

Centaur Communications

50 Poland St, London W1V 4AV

Fax: 0171 970 4195

ADMIN ASSISTANT

ST. JAMES'S c. £16,000

BEST Investment is a leading investment research and private client broking business acting as one of the UK's largest brokers in PEPs and personal investments.

We are looking to expand our admin team to deal with growth in business and new services. The successful candidate will have two to three years general admin experience, an excellent telephone manner, good keyboard skills and a sense of humour. Pressure can sometimes be high but the rewards generous for the right person.

A high level of maturity and attention to detail are essential.

Please write with a full CV to: Deborah Shorey, BEST Investment, 20 Mason's Yard, Duke Street, St. James's, London SW1V 6BU.

BEST INVESTMENT

Regulated by the Securities & Futures Authority, Member of the London Stock Exchange.

Personnel Selection

QUALITY TEMPS NEEDED

Range of long/short term temp assignments. SOUTH LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

Legal Secretaries - Receptionists

Administrators - Telesales in/outbound

Also Executive, I.T., Commercial, Catering & Industrial, permanent, temporary, full time/part time vacancies

Contact Allison Young or Steven Green

OPEN SATURDAYS 9.30am - 1pm

0181 680 2920

18 Park Street, London

Administrators & Secretaries

Temporary & Permanent Vacancies

We are currently looking for

administrations/secretarial staff to work in the City and Central London areas.

A typing speed of 40wpm, you'll possess

good PC skills together with strong

communication skills and the ability to work in a pressurised environment. If you're smart,

presentable and looking for a challenging new

role, don't waste time - call us now! Immediate

starts available for candidates.

Call Lorna on 0181 478 0000 or alternatively

fax your CV on 0181 478 2118 or e-mail

recruitment@charlesbirch.co.uk

Charles Birch Recruitment, 2 Clements Court,

Clements Lane, Ilford IG1 3QY

RECEPTIONIST/ADMIN ASSISTANT

SALARY: £13,000

"South Park/Cosmopolitan/Sesame Street"

are just a few of TLC's clients. Based in W8, we require an

enthusiastic, versatile and organised person to join our young,

dynamic team. Responsible for general "front of house"

duties and Admin Ass to creative dept. Min 1-2 years

experience and ideally 19-35 yrs.

Send Fax your CV to: Kerry Wyatt, The Licensing Company, Cambridge

House, 1 Nottingham Road, W8 5HX • Fax: 0171 368 0977

PA/SECRETARY TO PRINCIPAL

ISLINGTON

As leaders in the field of Employment Consultancy

specialising in personal injury litigation, a vacancy

has arisen for an experienced PA/Secretary to work

for the Head of the Organisation.

The successful candidate will have excellent audio

typing skills with a thorough knowledge of Word for

Windows V6, proof-reading skills, a professional

telephone manner and display initiative when

tackling a variety of duties including organising

diaries, liaison with solicitors and other professional

bodies.

If you have relevant experience, enthusiasm and

are seeking a challenging position, please send

your CV with a covering letter to Joan Staughton,

Office Manager, Keith Carter & Associates,

142 Liverpool Road, Islington N1 1LA.

Closing date for applications:

Wednesday 16th September, 1998.

Interviews will take place week commencing

21st September, 1998

Chase Moulde

7 PAYROLL TEMPS

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Immediate start for long and short-term payroll

contracts in London and Home Counties.

Paying up to £12ph

Minimum 1 year's payroll experience is essential.

Please call Melina

Tel: 0171 403 4488

90 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TH

Fax CVs: 0171 357 6969

E-mail: chase.moulde@compuserve.com

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE/SECRETARY

ADMINISTRATOR

£18,000 p.a. Pension and Benefits

We are a national trade association with a

small friendly Head Office in the heart of the

West End - looking for a bright experienced

database administrator to take full

responsibility for our centralised I.T. services.

You will undertake day to day administration

of membership changes and ensure that

database services continue to expand and

deliver the information we need. You will also

offer system help desk support to other users.

Experience of using a modern multi-user

relational database would be useful and a

good working knowledge of Microsoft Office

programs is essential. An experience of

working within a networked Windows NT

environment would be advantageous.

A real career opportunity is offered where you

can develop your skills to the full. Twenty

three days holiday.

Please send your C.V. to Peter Matthews,

Builders Merchants Federation, 15 Soho

Square, London W1V 6HL.

Secretary/Showroom Assistant

Central London

Interesting position for experienced person 21+ to

assist in running a leading showroom and office.

Knowledge of office furniture an advantage. Must

be lively but accurate, efficiently computer literate

with good experience of Windows 95, AppleMac,

Excel, smart appearance, well spoken.

Salary negotiable £15-17K.

In first instance send CV in confidence to

11 Chelwood Gardens, Richmond TW9 4JG or

telephone after 7pm 0181 876 6513.

AUDIO SECRETARY

TO SURVEYORS

Required for busy Chartered Surveyors office in

EC1. Knowledge of M/S Word for Windows

Version 7 software essential. Must be able to

work as part of a team within a friendly

environment.

Please send CV with covering letter to:

Jean O'Connor, Anstey Home & Co.,

31 Newbury Street

St. Bartholomew's

London EC1A 7HT

Fax: 0171 600 1225

OFFICE JUNIOR

Friendly accountancy firm near Leicester

Square seeking young, bright, versatile office

junior with the ability to cope with a wide range

of admin duties. Computer knowledge preferred

Salary according to age and experience.

Please apply in your own handwriting

enclosing your CV to

G. Rochester, Rothman Pantall & CO,

Clareville House, 26/27 Oxendon Street,

London SW1V 4EP

RECRUITING OFFICERS

LONG TERM TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS

Major retail out-let, has a requirement for two self motivated

Recruiting Officers. Ten years general experience, knowledge of

recruitment, internal consultancy style. Recruitment campaigns,

performance management. Identifying training needs and Customer

care. An extremely varied role where all your skills and knowledge

will be fully utilised.

SENIOR PERSONNEL ADVISOR MILTON KEYNES

£27K EXCELLENT BENES

170 Qualified min 5 years generalist experience including Trade

Union Liaison, Grading Structures, Benefits Evaluations and

knowledge of Payroll. You will be professional in your approach,

and a team player.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTANTS NOTTS BASED

£36K + CAR

Several key positions have arisen for Consultants with knowledge

of HR/Payroll software implementation, Service Delivery, Network

connections. Lots of Travel Involved.

For full details of these opportunities,

Please call Ruth at

The Payroll Partnership

on 0181 970 2150, or fax your

CV immediately to 0181 900 9446

RECEPTIONIST

LADIES FASHION COMPANY

A leading Fashion Company with showrooms in London,

Manchester and Leeds requires an enthusiastic Receptionist for

its Head Office in North London. Smart appearance. Age 22+

and flexible and friendly approach. Good communication skills

and telephone manner and computer experience

essential. Please send or fax your CV and hand-written covering

letter stating current salary to:

Ruth IND/REC JAWA

Mauritz (London) Ltd, Mauritz House

192 Hammersley Road - London N7 7LA

STUDY REVIEW
Depends on 11 September

AX 0171 293 2505

MANENT
speaks

RENTLY GRADUATED?

E SECRETARIAL AND
TRATIVE SKILLS?

LOOKING FOR A
SING ROLE IN A
OR UNIVERSITY?

AN
Tory to present

WORKS DATA ENTRY
ADMINISTRATIONS

THE INFORMATION
CONCEPT MARK

320 2800

STATION OFFICE
MAYOR

NEW FILMS

HANDS (AKA PALMS) (PG)

Director: Artur Aristakissian
The director of this harrowing semi-documentary has been compared to Pasolini and Tarkovsky, the press notes assure us, but though this is an imaginatively realised rumination on the workings of the modern world, the picture is deadening in a way that those directors' best work never was. The film is simple and precise in its methods; as images of downtrodden and forgotten citizens - amputees, beggars, the very young, the elderly - are played out before us in a moving collage, a man narrates a message to his unborn child, who may be being aborted even as he speaks.
West End: Renoir

HE GOT GAME (18)

Director: Spike Lee
Starring: Denzel Washington, Milla Jovovich
The plot of Spike Lee's muddled tale is pure poppycock: Jake Shuttleworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife, but is offered a deal, out of the blue, which could cut short his sentence. It has come to the attention of the Governor that Jake's son, Jesus (Ray Allen), is the country's hottest new basketball star, with all the majors competing to sign him up. If Jake can convince Jesus to sign with the Governor's alma mater, then he can look forward to early release. Jake agrees, and is dispatched into the outside world on this errand. However, there is one seemingly insurmountable obstacle in Jake's path - his son has vowed never to forgive him for his mother's murder.
If the impression this gives is of a politically correct soap opera, then that's close to how *He Got Game* comes across. Few directors have made such a swift impact on cinema as Lee - but equally, few have gone on to have such a variable career. Lee coaxes an impressive performance from Washington, but it is his own stylistic excesses which are the film's undoing.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Director: David Leland
Starring: Catherine McCormack, Rachel Weiss, Anna Friel, Steven Mackintosh
See *The Independent Recommends*, right
West End: Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

Director: Whit Stillman
Starring: Chloe Sevigny, Kate Beckinsale, Chris Eigeman
In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty, and pockets of glitter fall from the ceiling even as the club is being busted by cops. But you couldn't accuse the picture of being nostalgic - as with Stillman's previous films (*Metropolitan* and *Barcelona*), actions and emotions unfold with a knowing wink toward the future.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SPECIES II (18)

Director: Peter Medak
Starring: Michael Madsen, Natasha Henstridge, George Dzundza
Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of deadly alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. Cornball dialogue and a healthy abundance of sex and violence make this passable B-movie fun.
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

FANS OF THE X-FILES (left) television series have been heard to complain that the show's itinerant approach to conspiracy theories had taken some of the lustre out of the subject. In which case, the film version isn't likely to offer any compensation. But it looks splendid on the big screen. David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully, and the screenplay gives them a meaty conundrum to chew on.
On general release
David Leland's gentle comedy *The Land Girls* leads you into familiar territory, but manages to infuse the experience with warmth and wit. Rachel Weiss, Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but very nicely done.
On general release

Pop Tim Perry

JAPANESE SAMPLING, riffing wonderkid Cornelius (right) brings his full-on bag of surprises to the UK for his first major show. Described as sounding like Brian Wilson if he had access to current technology back in the days of his creative peak, Cornelius blends sublime pop moments with some real "out-there" stuff. His *Fontasma* album remains one of this year's highlights and tonight promises all sorts of sonic bleeps and offbeat visuals.
L.A., London W1 (0171-434 0403) 8pm
Another band who are massive in their own country are Sweden's dark-edged pop quintet Kent. Outselling the likes of the Cardigans and the Wamadas back home, with all three of their albums hitting the top spot, they'll be playing a much smaller venue than they're used to. This gig kicks off a mini-residency which sees them playing the cramped Monarch every Wednesday this month.
Monarch, London NW1 (0171-916 1049) 8pm



Theatre Dominic Cavendish

AFTER A much-appreciated run in July, tonight sees the return of Ubu Kinsai, Luis Alberto Soto's irreverent revamp of Alfred Jarry's influential schoolboy satire on tyrants. Soto, who takes the role of the benevolent, foul-mouthed conqueror, is assisted by two other performers, a chrysanthemum, a bowl of tomatoes and some kitchen utensils. Simple, yet highly effective.
Young Vic, The Cut, London SE1 (0171-928 6383) 7.45pm
Having been praised in the rafters in Edinburgh, the National Theatre of Brent's cross-wired dramatisation of the Charles and Di (right) story. Love upon the throne, comes to London. Very funny, but not disrespectfully so.
Bush Theatre, London W12 (0181-743 3388) 8pm



Poetry Judith Palmer

ONE FISH, two fish, red fish, blue fish... London Zoo's sleek young poet-in-residence, Tobias Hill, celebrates his new post tonight by opening up the Aquarium for an evening of Poetry among the Piranhas. A ticklish occasion for the little fished fellows since Hill's only fish poems to date have been about sushi "inch-cuts of raw sardine / converted into shoals of sweat". Hill will however be reading lots of new poems about other beasts from his forthcoming collection, *Zoo*. Joining him among the leopard eels and lion-fish is the magnificently dry-witted Carol Ann Duffy (right). Entrance includes free wine, a chance to explore the aquarium, and interval music from a harpist - presumably to humour the angelfish.
The Aquarium, London Zoo, Prince Albert Gate, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1. 7.30pm, tickets £8 in advance only from the Poetry Society (0171-420 9895)



GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in one. A meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as Angus De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, Day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the more undemanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for anyone else. Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations which have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels for the most part like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes. Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

GADJO DILO (15)

A young Parisian journeys through rural Romania on a quest for the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling which pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental travelogue. Renoir

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately, on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them. Empire Leicester Square

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's over-long and deeply indulgent film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help New York magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card-game, falls into the former, but a high-stakes card-game, falls into the latter, but a dangerous old-school pro. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Yet another cult 1960s television series to get an expensive makeover but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone. William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from environmental destruction.
Odeon West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

METROLAND (18)

Seventies suburban morality tale in which Christian Bale plays a man festering somewhere in the commuter belt when his oldest friend thinks that he ought to be out having fun. There are some endearing moments but, on the whole, director Philip Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition. Virgin Trocadero

MR NICE GUY (15)

This largely disappointing addition to Jackie Chan's oeuvre has its moments - a fight scene on a construction site is a particular delight. But the combination of comedy and adventure doesn't gel: it may be the first Chan film that wouldn't even look good if you were plastered.
Virgin Trocadero

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of wedding vows and joint burial plots by being gay.
West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE PROPOSITION (12)

Dismal period drama in which feminist writer Madeleine Stowe and priest Kenneth Branagh become entangled after she discovers her fat-cat husband (William Hurt) is unable to father a child. Salacious tosh. ABC Panton Street

THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)

The *Real Howard Spitz*, a sunny comedy about a children's writer (Kelsey Grammer, aka Frasier) who hates children, is director Vadim Jean's most likeable work. Originally may be thin on the ground but the direction is breezy and Grammer has a lovely, grouchy demeanour. UCI Whiteleys

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also slyly funny. Barbican Screen, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Pleasant thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, Tab and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. Ultimately the film feels a little shallow and self-conscious, but it puts a smile on your face for most of its duration. Warner Village West End

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-935 2712) • Baker Street
Psycho 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.30pm The X-Files 2.20pm,
5.30pm, 8.20pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-930 0631) • Piccadilly
Circus The Big Lebowski
1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm,
8.30pm Jackie Brown 1.30pm,
4.40pm, 7.45pm Live Flesh
1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm
The Proposition 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly
Circus Lolita 2.05pm, 5.05pm,
8pm Love And Death On Long
Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0171-836 6279) • Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road
Hana-Bi 1.15pm, 3.45pm The
X-Files 1.25pm, 3.20pm,
5.30pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-439 4470) • Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm The Daytrippers
1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm,
7.10pm, 9.10pm Deconstructing
Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm La Grande Illusion
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm Kurt &
Courtney 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-636 6148) • Tottenham
Court Road The Horse Whisperer
1.05pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.25pm,
4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Lock,
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
1.10pm, 3.50pm,
6.40pm, 9.15pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-382 7000) • Moorgate/Barbican The Horse
Whisperer 5.30pm, 8.30pm The
Spanish Prisoner 6.15pm,
8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) • Sloane
Square The Horse Whisperer
1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 2242) • Clapham
Common The Horse Whisperer
1.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm The Last
Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9pm The X-Files
1.45pm, 4.15pm,
6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) • Green Park
Le Bossu 12.15pm, 3pm,
5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET

(0171-709 4968) • Elephant &
Castle Dr Dollittle 1.30pm,
3.40pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 4pm, 6.15pm,
8.35pm Species II 4.15pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 1234) • Leicester
Square Godzilla 3pm, 5.50pm,
8.40pm Species II 1pm, 3.20pm,
6pm, 8.20pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill
Gate The Spanish Prisoner
1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) • Ravenscourt
Park/Hammersmith The Horse
Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm,
8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 12.40pm,
3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Species II 12.30pm, 3.10pm,
5.50pm, 8.30pm The X-Files
12.50pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm

METRO

(0171-437 0757) • Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square Latin
American Film Festival phone
for details

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) • Knightsbridge
Hana-Bi 2pm,
4.15pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate The Horse Whisperer
1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) • Camden
Town Armageddon 8.15pm The
Daytrippers 12.20pm The Horse
Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.15pm,
7.45pm The Last Days Of Disco
12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm,
8.50pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.55pm,
2.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The
Spanish Prisoner 12noon,
2.50pm, 5.45pm The X-Files
2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0181-315 4212) • Piccadilly
Circus The X-Files 2pm,
5.45pm, 8.35pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) • High Street
Kensington Armageddon
5.10pm, 8.35pm Dr Dollittle
12.50pm, 3pm He Got Game
12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm,
9.15pm The Horse Whisperer
1.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm The
Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm,
4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm The
Little Mermaid 11.40am Lock,
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 1.25pm, 3.40pm,
6.35pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0181-315 4215) • Leicester
Square The Horse Whisperer
1.25pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm,
12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch
Armageddon 2.05pm, 5.25pm,
8.45pm The Horse Whisperer
1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm Lock,
Stock & Two Smoking Barrels
12.15pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm,
8.55pm Species II 1.45pm,
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm
The X-Files 12.20pm, 3pm,
6pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4217) • Leicester
Square/Eve's Bayou 1.45pm,
4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.35pm,
3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Sex
Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm,
4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Titanic
12.05pm, 3.45pm, 7.25pm The
Wedding Singer 2.25pm,
4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4220) • Swiss
Cottage Armageddon 2pm, 5pm,
8pm He Got Game 12.15pm,
3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Horse
Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.05pm,
7.45pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.45pm The Spanish
Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm,
6.20pm, 8.45pm The X-Files
12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WEST END

(0181-315 4221) • Leicester
Square Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm,
4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm The
X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm,
6.15pm, 9pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) • East Finchley
The Spanish Prisoner 2pm,
4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

PLAZA

(0171-437 1234) • Piccadilly
Circus Armageddon 1.30pm,
4.45pm, 8pm Eve's Bayou
12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm,
8.35pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm,
6pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 1pm,
3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) • Russell
Square Gadjo Dilo 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8pm
Hands (aka Palms) 3pm,
5.45pm, 8.25pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) • Dalston
Kingland The Last Days Of
Disco 6.15pm, 8.50pm Sliding
Doors 2.30pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-737 2121/733 2229)
BR/• Britton He Got Game
12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.45pm,
5.10pm, 8.50pm The Last Days
Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.50pm,
6.25pm, 9.05pm Lock, Stock &
Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm,
4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Panic! 12.50pm The Spanish
Prisoner 1.40pm, 4.05pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-406 0036) • Baker Street
The Horse Whisperer 3.05pm,
7.45pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 3.25pm,
6.25pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) • Angel
Highway & Islington The Spanish
Prisoner 3.45pm, 6.20pm,
8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) • Belsize Park
The Land Girls 1.45pm,
6.50pm, 9.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0171-792 3332) • Bayswater
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.30pm,
8.50pm Dr Dollittle 12noon,
2.10pm, 4.20pm He Got Game
3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm The
Horse Whisperer 1.45pm,
5.15pm, 8.40pm The Land Girls
6.25pm, 9pm The Last Days Of
Disco 1.30pm, 4.25pm, 7pm,
9.30pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.45pm, 9.15pm The Real
Howard Spitz 12.45pm Species II
1.50pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm The X-
Files 05pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm,
9.20pm

VIRGIN CHelsea

(0870-9070710) • Sloane
Square/South Kensington
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.30pm The Last Days Of Disco
12.30pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 1.25pm, 3.20pm,
6.10pm, 9pm Species II 1pm,
3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

(0870-9070711) • South
Kensington Armageddon
1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm,
11.15pm The Spanish Prisoner
The Big Lebowski 2pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.40pm,
5pm, 8

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

RICHARD HOGGART, writing in this paper last Saturday, mused over the vexed question of what Englishness is - whether, indeed, there is such a thing as an English identity. One conclusion he came to was that he would class himself a Yorkshireman first, an Englishman second. The theme is picked up in tonight's edition of Inside Out (8pm R4). Lesley Riddoch (right) travels to

Newcastle to chair a debate on the question of English regional identity - is there enough of it for regional government to make sense? Today's Lunchtime Concert (1pm R3) comes live from St Augustine's Church, Edgworth: the Lyric Quartet play the Ravel string quartet and the first broadcast of Gavin Bryars' Quartet No 3.



ROBERT HANES

Radio 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo Whiley, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Dave Pearce, 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session, 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode, 8.40 John Peel, 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs, 12.00 The Breakfast, 2.00 Emma B, 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

Radio 2
(80.2-82.4MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.00 John Dunn, 7.00 Nick Barraclough, 8.00 Mike Harding, 9.00 Gloria Estefan's Sounds of Miami, 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2, 10.30 Richard Ainsworth, 12.05 Steve Madden, 3.00 - 4.00 Annie Othen.

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Proms Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Janacek, 1.00 Lunchtime Concert. See Pick of the Day, 2.00 BBC Proms 98, (R) 3.40 Musique Heroique, 4.00 Choral Evensong, 5.00 In Tune, 7.30 BBC Proms 98. A lyrical, haunting symphony brings the music of Franz Schmidt, a contemporary of Mahler, to the Proms for the first time. It contrasts with two aspects of the Russian genius - Glinka's sparkling overture and Rachmaninov's popular concerto in its all-embracing world of colour and virtuosity. Arkady Volodov (piano), Boumoum SO/Yakov Kozlovsky, Glinka: Overture Russian and Ludmila, Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor, 8.20 Who Was Franz Schmidt?, 9.00 Postscript. A five-part series in which leading philosophers offer their appreciation of great thinkers. 3: Hume, Professor Simon Blackburn is best known for his defence of quasi-realism, an account of the

world which attempts to reconcile our experience of the world's richness with the stark ontology of modern science. In this programme, he talks about his hero, David Hume, who he thinks laid the foundations for a modern scientific philosophy. (R) 10.05 Mendelssohn, String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 13, Sorrel Quartet, 10.45 Viewing the Century - Manuel Castells. Another chance to hear the series in which leading commentators on the century give their views on the landmark events that have changed the way we think. In the first programme, Manuel Castells, author of *The Information Age* and Professor of Sociology and City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, talks to Peter Conrad about the wave of libertarianism in the 1980s, the creation and collapse of Communism, and the impact of the technological revolution on how we pass information around the globe. (R) 11.30 Jazz Notes, 12.00 Proms Composers of the Week: Elser and Weill, (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Midweek, 9.45 The Owl's Watchsong, 10.00 NEWS, Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS, Crimscapes, (R) 11.30 Punctures, 12.00 NEWS, You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One.

13.00 Inspiration (R)
2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.25 Play: Roy and Daisy, (R) 3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Blind Men on the Rampage, (R) 3.45 The Lyrical Ballads, 4.00 NEWS: All in the Mind, 4.30 Thinking Allowed, 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 Dan and Nick: the Widebeest Years, 7.00 NEWS: The Archers, 7.25 Front Row: Mark Lawson presents arts news, reviews and debates, 7.45 Dear Jayne Brown: 'End of Innocence' by Nick Fisher. Voices from the past call Jayne back to a final reckoning and reveal crucial clues to the identity of her namesake correspondent. With Jill Balcon, Stella Gorn, Angela Plesance and Valerie Samit. Director Celia de Wolff (3/5), 8.00 NEWS: Inside Out. English regional identity comes under the spotlight in tonight's debate from the Council Chambers in Newcastle. Following Scottish and Welsh devolution, Lesley Riddoch asks if there is any demand for regional governments for England. See Pick of the Day, 8.45 Tonight's Homework. Hwee Hwee Tan grew up in Singapore, and all she remembers about it is school, school and more school. As the joke goes, 'How do you know your parents are Asian?' When the only English words they know are

Oxford, Harvard and MIT, 9.00 NEWS: Enright's Universe, 'Far Horizons'. Leo Enright journeys to the outer planets courtesy of some of the most sophisticated space hardware ever built, 9.30 Midweek. Lively conversation with Libby Purves and guests, 10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig, 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Potato Gatherers. Gerard McSorley reads the third of five short stories by Brian Friel. Philly has taken a day off school to earn his first wage and soon discovers that it is harder work than he expected, 11.00 Hearing with Hegley. Post John Hegley entertains, wielding a microphone and a book of verse. With Nigel Piper and the Popicians, 11.15 The Goldfish Bowl, 11.30 The Muses, 12.00 NEWS, 12.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid, (R) 12.45 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW
(98.1kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

Radio 5 Live
(93.7, 90.9kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 Nicky Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News, 1.00 Ruscoe and Co, 4.00 Nationwide, 7.00 News Extra, 7.30 Football Night. Ian Payne presents coverage of the night's live action, including Chelsea vs Arsenal, Manchester United vs Charlton, Liverpool vs Coventry and Tottenham vs Blackburn in the Premiership, as well as news of the night's league games, 10.00 Litterlight. Talk about the night's live football action and the latest stories with Richard Littlejohn on 0500 909693, 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion, 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM
(101.7-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, 9.00 Evening Concert, 11.00 Alan Mann, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
(105.7-105.9MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans, 9.30 Bobby Hain, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Mark Forrest FM only Paul Coyte from 6.45, 7.30 Paul Coyte, 10.00 Mark Forrest, 1.00 Peter Poutton, 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

World Service
(98.1kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent, 1.45 Britain Today, 2.00 Newsdesk, 2.30 Omnibus, 3.00 Newsday, 3.30 Meridian (Books), 4.00 World News, 4.05 World Business Report, 4.35 Sports Roundup, 4.50 - 7.00 The World Today.

Talk Radio
(94.9kHz FM)
6.00 Bill Cotton and Kirsty Young, 9.00 Scott Chipman, 11.00 Lorraine Kelly, 1.00 Anna Rasmussen, 3.00 Tommy Boyd, 5.00 Peter Deely, 7.00 Nick Abbot, 9.00 James White, 1.00 Ian Collins, 5.00 - 7.00 Early Show with Bill Overton.

5395731, 12.25 EastEnders (571609), 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (581772), 2.00 Dallas (588948), 2.55 The Bill (591181), 3.25 The Bill (61354), 3.55 Bergerac (595248), 5.30 Angels (592918), 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small (588948), 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: Don't Wait to (58244), 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: Don't Wait to (58244), 8.00 The Comedy Alternative: Don't Wait to (58244), 8.40 Common as Muck (582773), 10.50 The Bill (72977), 11.20 The Bill (602077), 11.50 Casualty (592647), 12.50 The Comic Strip Presents (510725), 1.25 Live at Jingles (586497), 1.55 Films: Riders of Destiny (593), 5.442039, 2.55 - 7.00 Shopping at Night (595732).

Living
6.00 Live Living (514939), 9.00 Special Babes (541698), 9.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (574222), 10.00 Jerry Springer (577781), 10.50 Rotunda (575248), 11.40 Brookside (591749), 9.11 (515422), 1.55 Ready, Steady, Cook (433788), 1.50 Cart Cart, Work Cart (565725), 2.20 Living It Up (576947), 3.20 Rotunda (575248), 3.50 Steady, Cook (584248), 5.35 Cart Cart, Work Cart (54251), 6.00 Jerry Springer (582793), 7.00 Rescue 911 (595422), 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (574218), 8.00 Murder Call (580489), 9.00 Films: No One Could Predict Her (592248), 11.00 The Sex Files (584925), 12.00 Close.

TNT
9.00 Films: Unmissable: North by Northwest (1955), See Pick of the Day (588203), 11.00 Films: Clash of the Titans (1981) (529533), 11.00 Films: The Wheelers Dealers (1963) (529587), 3.00 Films: An American in Paris (1951) (750353), 5.00 Close.

Paramount Comedy Channel
2.00 Roseanne (514), 3.30 Cosby (3809), 6.00 Grace Under Fire (548), 8.30 Spin City (798), 9.00 Ellen (2270), 9.30 Seinfeld (2102), 10.00 Frasier (5354), 10.30 Cheers (5202), 11.00 Kenny Everett (5495), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (5257), 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (7684), 1.00 Saturday Night Live (5430), 2.00 Dr Katz (5023), 2.30 Soap (7727), 3.00 The Kids in the Hall (5257), 3.30 Nightstand (5930), 4.00 Close.

Westcountry
As Carlton excepts 12.27 Burningside (597828), 1.00 Emmerdale (1893), 6.00 Westcountry Live (5354), 10.40 Film: Batman Forever (57083), 11.25 Tropical Heat (57948), 12.25 Film: Defending Your Life (514958), 2.25 One Summer in Bronte Country (527518), 2.55 Vanessa (575478), 3.45 Cybernet (588590), 4.00 Simply Wide (574554), 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (514501), 5.00 Coronation Street (7574).

Yorkshire
As Carlton excepts 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (598557), 12.25 Jobina (597828), 1.00 Home and Away (514373), 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (573158), 2.30 Emmerdale (514044), 3.20 Calendar News (578344), 4.40 News: Weather (70028), 5.55 Calendar (51977), 6.30 Tonight (541), 10.40 Film: Batman Forever (57083), 11.25 Dooms-

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

Tonight's match, Chelsea vs Arsenal, 7.30pm Sky Sports 1, is a clash of two of the most glamorous club teams in the world. Chelsea boasts World Cup winner Marcel Desailly, while Arsenal fields Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira from that same victorious side, as well as Denis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars from the attractive Dutch national 11. The attitudes of both the teams and their continental coaches - Gianluca

Vialli for Chelsea and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger (right) - should guarantee an exciting match. If your nerves are frayed after the football, take pains to avoid North by Northwest (9pm TNT). Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 comic thriller Cary Grant excels as the happy-go-lucky adman who finds himself plunged into a Kafkaesque nightmare of abduction, conspiracy and confused identity.



JAMES RAMPTON

Sky Movies Screen 1
6.00 Back to the Planet of the Apes (1974) (501488), 7.40 That's Right - You're Wrong (1993) (540088), 8.35 Running Brave (1993) (516048), 11.00 Race against the Harvest (1987) (2786), 1.00 That's Right - You're Wrong (1993) (540088), 3.00 Sea Devils (1987) (27257) (5300), Back to the Planet of the Apes (1974) (501488), 7.40 Race against the Harvest (1987) (2786), 9.00 Silent Innocence (1987) (54080), 11.00 Waiting to Exhale (1995) (454072), 1.25 Five Desperate Hours (1987) (56823), 2.35 American Bandits (1986) (52529), 4.35 - 6.00 Running Brave (1993) (516048).

Sky Movies Screen 2
6.05 Old Man (1997) (229148), 8.00 Redwood Curtain (1985) (54422), 10.00 A Different Kind of Christmas (1995) (5757), 12.00 Old Man (1997) (229148), 2.00 Made in Heaven (1987) (5077), 4.00 Redwood Curtain (1985) (54422), 6.00 The Swan Princess (1994) (50348), 8.00 The Ghost and the Darkness (1995) (5221), 10.00 Screamers (1995) (52403), 11.50 Mulholland Falls (1996) (52457), 1.40 Desperate Trail (1994) (52547), 3.45 - 6.00 Escape to Nowhere (1996) (584458).

Sky Movies Gold
4.00 Stage Door (1937) (507519), 6.00 Annie Oakley (1935) (28118), 8.00 Second Step (1935) (283335), 10.00 Die Hard (1988) (442559), 12.00 The Gaze (1987) (59577), 1.00 Beverly Hills Cop (1984) (527787), 3.40 John Singleton (1949) (527787), 5.45 Close.

Bravo
6.00 The A-Team (712460), 9.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (505825), 9.30 Cops (518459), 10.00 The Basement (510257), 10.30 Red Shoe Diaries (518515), 11.00 Films: The Gaze (1987) (59577), 1.00 Beverly Hills Cop (1984) (527787), 3.40 John Singleton (1949) (527787), 5.45 Close.

Discovery Channel
4.00 Fishing Adventures (200799), 4.30 Top Mercuries (205880), 5.00 Flightline (160557), 5.30 Jurassic II (201460), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (207737), 6.30 Wild Dogs (571828), 7.30 Arthur C Clarke (200480), 8.00 Survival (712509), 9.00 Survival (200559), 9.30 Death Zone (58933), 10.00 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky 1
6.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (5999), 8.30 Street Sharks (1970), 9.00 Garfield and Friends (54422), 9.30 The Simpsons (7003), 10.00 Games World (554473), 10.35 Games World (554473), 10.35 Just Kid: Kid of Superman (5673), 12.00 Married with Children (59285), 12.30 M*A*S*H (704280), 12.55 The Special K Collection (592918), 1.00 Gerardo (505738), 1.55 The Special K Collection (592918), 2.55 The Special K Collection (592918), 3.00 Jerry Jones (476180), 3.35 The Special K Collection (594522), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (55003), 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5538), 6.00 Married with Children (59285), 6.30 Friends (251), 7.00 The Simpsons (4257), 7.30 Real TV (5935), 8.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5544), 8.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5544), 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5544), 1.30 - 3.00 Long Play (572838).

Sky Sports 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 2
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 4
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 5
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 6
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 7
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (514035), 7.25 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (514035), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 10.30 Wonders of Weather (510544), 11.00 Outlines (703083), 12.00 Flightline (581832), 12.30 Top Mercuries (531858), 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (579485), 2.00 Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

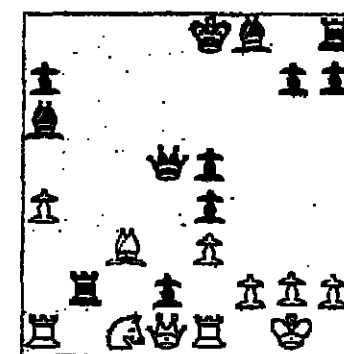
JON SPERLMAN

FOLLOWING JAN TIMMAN's fine performance as Black in the first game against Gary Kasparov, as detailed yesterday, we might have hoped that he would be able to keep up the good work with the white pieces. But it was not to be.

Generally, Kasparov plays the King's Indian against Timman but this time he surprised the Dutchman with the Slav Defence. In an echo of yesterday's game, Black again snatched a pawn for some compensation. Again White's compensation turned out to be inadequate, but this time grossly so, and Kasparov was able not only to keep his material but also to seize both space and a burgeoning initiative which quickly gathered the whole point. This defeat as White leaves Timman and his seconds, Ulf Andersson and Ivan Sokolov, with plenty of work to do: though in a short match of just six games, I wouldn't be too surprised if Kasparov who has Yuri Dokholan as his second presents a moving target, rather than repeating the Slav in his next Black.

In the opening, 5 a4 is more usual to prevent... b5. With 8 Qc2, White's idea is to lure the black pawns forward, after which if he can capture the e4 pawn then he will have a structural advantage. He has to grant Black a temporary initiative: but in Kasparov's hands this became permanent.

15 Bf3? was bad, but the alternative, 15 Nd6 - Bxd6 16 Bxa6 Qxe5 17 f4 Qc5 18 Bxc8 dxe3 19 Kh1 0-0, leaves Black with massive compensation for the exchange. After the



excellent self-pin, 15... Ne4, Black seems already to be winning. In the diagram, White is scuppered by a back rank mate: f2 d4 Bxb2 dxe1 Q+ 25 Qxe1 Bb4! 26 Qxb4 Qd1+ Timman showed his aesthetic sense by resigning, immediately after his opponent cashed.

White: Jan Timman
Black: Gary Kasparov
Prague (Game 2) 1998
Slav Defence
1 d4 d5 17 Nd2 f5
2 c4 c6 18 Re1 d3
3 Nf3 Nf6 19 Nxb3 c5
4 Ne5 dxe4 20 Bb2 f6
5 e3 b5 21 Rxe4 fxe4
6 a4 b4 22 Nc1 Rxb2
7 Nf1 Bb1 23 Bc1 d2
8 Qc2 b3 24 Rf1 Bb1 (see diagram)
9 Qd1 e6 25 Bxb2 Bc4
10 Be2 c5 26 Ne2 Bb1
11 0-0 Nc6 27 Ne3 Bxd1
12 Ne5 Rb8 28 Ne4 Bxd1
13 Nd6 13...exd4 29 Nxd5 Bxd3
14 Nxe4 Qd5 29 Nc1 Bb4
15 Bf3? Nc4 30 Nd1 0-0-1
16 Nxc6 Rxc6

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

LEARN FROM STARS by Mark Horton and Tony Sowter (Batsford, 9.99) is not an introduction to astrology but a collection of intriguing deals, old and new. Many are familiar and I certainly remember this hand, having watched it live (well, on Bridgerama) in 1990 and been mildly amused by the commentator's remarks. You will appreciate that we could see all four hands.

North opened One Club, East overcalled with One Heart, and South tried 2 No-trumps. North raised to game and West, Bobby Goldman of America, led ♠9 and South held ♠A as well as his two winning hearts but, reasoned declarer, perhaps there was the outside chance of being able to play the clubs for five tricks.

After winning the third heart lead, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and led ♠Q. East covered with the king but, under the ace, Goldman dropped the jack. "Routine!" said the commentator. "Quite right if his partner had started with ♠K 10, but now he has just given away an overtrick."

Not so at all. Convinced that East must have started with ♠K 9 4, declarer crossed to dummy with another top spade and finessed ♠8. West won unexpectedly with his nine and got off lead with a spade. South now had only eight winners and, when he finally played on diamonds, he was annoyed to find that it was West who held ♠A all the time. What was worse, West now cashed the lovely ♠6 for the setting trick.

Love all; dealer North

North
♠AKK
♥72
♦KQ6
♣Q7653
West East
♠6432 ♠975
♥986 ♥KQJ54
♦A1075 ♦J32
♣J9 ♣4

South

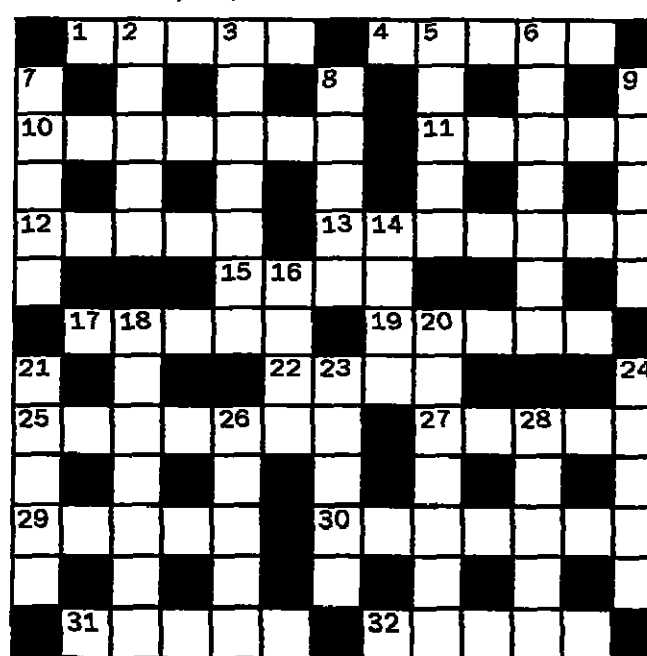
♠QJ10
♥A103
♦984
♣A1082

Bridge News

The final results of the World Championships in Lille are as follows:
The Vivendi Rosenblum cup was won by Italy (Lanzarotti, Versace, Semenza, Angelini, Lauria & Buratti). The Louis Vuitton McConnell Cup went to Austria (Sylvia Terrano, Maria Erhart, Doris Fischer, Terri Weiglrich). The Societe Generale Open Pairs went to Michael Kwiecien and Jaros Pazdzala of Poland; the Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs was won by Jill Meyers and Shawn Quinn, US. The most spectacular win was in the Senior Pairs by Irvine Gordon and Boris Schapiro of Great Britain. Boris first won a world championship (unofficial) 40 years ago, he is now 89. The partnership led throughout, winning by a large margin.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3711 Wednesday 9 September



ACROSS

- Go bad (5)
- Of eastern continent (5)
- Firm (7)
- Glim (5)
- Most insignificant (5)
- Marsh gas (7)
- Holly (4)
- Clowing oval (5)
- Plurimagine centre (5)
- Drive (5)
- Pass in church (5)
- Fruit, or half of one? (5)
- Getting on (7)
- Show feelings (5)
- Multiply (5)

DOWN

- Play (5)
- Madcap (7)
- Vision (5)
- Transparent film (7)
- Religious song (5)
- Jingle (5)
- Clowing oval (5)
- Way out (4)
- Unconvincing (4)
- Cry out (7)
- Take a winding course (7)
- Saying (5)
- Change (5)
- Gemstone (5)
- French scaport (5)
- Attend to customer (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 5. Pansy, 8. Ample (Personalised), 9. Apple, 10. Collapse, 11. Berth, 14. Gas, 15. Enigma, 17. Andnet, 18. Pad, 20. Mage, 21. Columbo, 23. Sepia, 26. Sn Lanka, 27. Bama, DOWN: 1. Watch, 2. Table, 3. Byline, 4. Gem, 6. Unsteady, 7. Scatista, 12. In camera, 13. Ignition, 14. Gap, 15. Set, 19. Abound, 21. Folly, 23. Sign, 25. Medal.

The always thought that other people's attitudes are rather like other people's dreams: to rather not hear about them, things very much as they are. (C) has been such a reasonable sort. However, the BBC has delayed a guide to them that it is energetically flagging as

Decisions Decisions



CABLE & WIRING

Channel 5

6:30 *Newsroom South East*. Regional news magazine. (T) (378).

7:00 *The X-Files*. The Loch Ness monster: Is it real or just another myth perpetuated by documentary makers in search of a subject? (S) (T) (378b).

7:30 *Tomorrow's World*. Pioneering spinal surgery, and an invention to reduce queues at theme parks (S) (T) (657).

6.00 Changing Rooms. Lorraine Llewellyn-Bowen creates a Manhattan Gallery-style "living unit" in a basement, while Graham Wyne goes all Moroccan in an attic (S) (T) (6083).

6.30 The National Lottery Dreamworld. Another desperate attempt to fill the slot on late watches except for the last two minutes (S) (T) (618).

6.50 News Regional News Weather. (T) (6712).

10-45 March of the Day. Highlights of the matches between Liverpool and Coventry at Anfield, and Aston

11.45 FILM A Thousand Heroes (Lamont Johnson 1981, US). Real-life TV movie that looks remarkably like one of the *Alphaville* style, even that the engines of DC-10 blow, authorities target about those on board as they squabble over responsibility. Stars character-actor familiara Candon Heston, Richard Thomas and James Coburn (1978/80).

8.48 *Snafers*. The parallel world travellers discover sentient life (S) (T) (S2880).

8.00 *Unnecessarily Challenged.* Come on, Backo. You're going to have to do better than that if you're going to beat Durham. (S) (T) (4/25).

8.30 *Two Fat Ladies.* Jennifer and Claire's cook up rennet soufflé, pork with olives and chocolate drizzle to the Welsh Pony Club. (S) (T) (4/45).

8.00 *Dad's Army.* (R) (T) (3/35).

8.30 Close Up. Colleagues and friends of the TV playing Dennis Potter dressed, the extent to which he could tell reality from fantasy. Contributions from Cilla Bealman, Roy Hudd, Kenlin Todd and Jon Amiel (s) (351st).

11.15 Nightmare in Paradise (S) (48319).
...
11.15 Grace under Fire, Wv. single-mom sitcom. Grace
rescues Quentin's orphan (S) (18989).
...
12.30 BBC Learning Zone, Open University: Probing the
structure of liquids (B488). **1.00** ScienceNOW (17224).
1.30 Designs for Living (B524). **2.00** The Greats:
Scientists and inventors (G723). **4.00** Languages:
Celtic in Spanish Part 2 (B658). **5.00** Business and
Training, RCH Nursing (B4837). **6.45** Open
University: Harvesting the Sun (B31885). to 6:00am

6.30 London Bridge. Ray finally leaves Meg as Sam reflects on her night with Liam (S) (44).

7.00 Emmerdale. Tara hunts for Bill. Kim and Steve prepare their criminal future (S) (7) (67a).

7.30 Coronation Street. The gull-ridden Steve is attracted by Fern. The police turn their attention to Cu-

8.40c **W**ho Wants to Be a Millionaire? (S) (T) (T).

10:00 News Weather (T) (8315).
10:30 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East. (T) (83859).
10:40 FILM Batman Forever. Concludes (S) (T) (82854).

11:30 **Midnight Caller** (75712).

12:30 **[G10] McCabe and Mrs Miller** (Robert Altman 1971 US), Classic western starring Warren Beatty and Julie Christie (9722215). See *Film of the Day*, p.7555.

2:40 **One Summer in Bronte Country** (1) (9755359).

3:05 **Venezuela (M)** (5) (1) (883403), **3:40** **Cybernet (S)** (6) (9786855), **4:20** **ITV Nightline** (885559), **5:30** **ITV Morning News** (3128), to dawn

6.25 Suddenly Susan. Brodie Shields attends a fund-raiser (8) (T) (3/31/87).

6.30 Fresh Pop. Bands introduce their own videos. Billy Crawford performs "Urgently in Love" (3/31/88).

7.00 Channel 4 News Weather. Including headlines at 7:30pm (S) (T) (3/31/88).

7.50 Algeria Daily. (7) (928539).

8.00 Brookside. Oilie and Eleanor are released without charges. Legal confusion with the longest labour in history (7) (97383).

8.30 Looking like Diana. Diverging little documentary about what has happened to all the Diana lookalikes recently (7) (98269).

9.00 Mummy's Boys. Documentary about a variety of young men and their relationships with their mothers (7) (9825).

10.00 SHIRAZE Ally McBeal. See *Shown of the Day*, below
(a) (7) (b)(5)(D),

(S) (7) (72M44);
11.25 Jo Whaley (33018);
12.50 Under the Moon, Long-drawn-out sporting chat with
 Darryl Kelly, Lia Rogers and guests Neil Ruddock and
 Richie Woodall (53467867);
4.00 Theatricals (P) (7022294), **4.25 Gamesmaster** (P) (S)
 (7) (61843682), **5.00 Transworld Sport** (P) (7155549),
5.55 Sesame Street (P) (S) (7102219), To 7am

6.30 Family Affairs. Maddox is evasive about the family background, but Neil does not see the warning signs. Holly gals jealous when Neil arranges to meet Suele. Pats becomes power-crazy (S) (T) (438783).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. National and international news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (882567).

7.30 Where the Blean Bears, Eagles and Ospreys straddle to release the next generation along the same

6.00 The Pepsi Chart. The new Top 20 (S) (232453).
 atreuch of Borgal lake (S) (7) (431697).
6.20 In the Dark. Weird comedy gameshow with Junior
 Simpson (S) (7) (774380).
6.00 FILM Shattering the Silence (Linda Ohp 1992
 US) Women-issue movie that struggles so hard not to
 be offensive on the subject of chick-flicks that it loses

10.40 Not the Jack Docherty Show. *Melinda Messenger* stands in for Jack Docherty on the late-night celebrity chat and comedy show (8) (7B37070).

11.50C **completing Situations** More soft porn for the private bed set (B37422).
11.55 **Major League Baseball** (S) (27978908).
4.40 **Madman of the People** **Slam** (3709887) **5.05**
Thru. (B85538) **5.30 - 6.00** **100 Per Cent** (F) (S)
(422749).

THE

CLARKSON.
Extreme Machines.
Tonight at 11.30pm.



CLARKSON.
Extreme Machines.
Tonight at 11.30pm.